

# regiments of the Indian Army

List of regiments of the Indian Army

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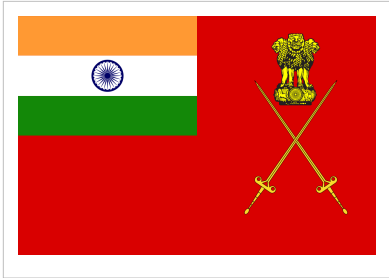
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# Indian Army

Indian Army	
 <p>Indian Army Seal</p>	
<b>Founded</b>	15 August 1947 – Present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Type</b>	Army
<b>Size</b>	1,429,900 Active personnel 960,000 Reserve personnel 158 Helicopters
<b>Part of</b>	Ministry of Defence Indian Armed Forces
<b>Headquarters</b>	New Delhi, India
<b>Colour</b>	Gold, red and black
<b>Website</b>	indianarmy.nic.in <sup>[1]</sup>
Commanders	
<b>Chief of the Army Staff</b>	General V K Singh <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Field Marshal Cariappa Field Marshal Manekshaw

The **Indian Army** (**IA**, Devanāgarī: भारतीय थलसेना, *Bhāratīyan Thalāsēnā*) is the land based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.

According to the IISS, in 2010 the army had a strength of 1,129,900 active personnel and 960,000 reserve personnel,<sup>[3]</sup> making the Indian Army the world's largest standing volunteer army.<sup>[2][4]</sup>

Its primary mission is to ensure the national security and defence of the Republic of India from external aggression and threats, and maintaining peace and security within its borders. It also conducts humanitarian rescue operations during natural calamities and other disturbances. The President of India is the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), a General, is a four star commander and commands the army. There is typically never more than one serving general at any given time in the Army. Two officers have been conferred the rank of field marshal, a 5-star rank and the officer serves as the ceremonial chief.

The Indian Army came into being when India gained independence in 1947, and inherited most of the infrastructure of the British Indian Army that were located in post-partition India. The Indian Army is a voluntary service and although a provision for military conscription exists in the Indian constitution, it has never been imposed. Since independence, the army has been involved in four wars with neighboring Pakistan and one with the People's

Republic of China. Other major operations undertaken by the army include Operation Vijay, Operation Meghdoot and Operation Cactus. Apart from conflicts, the army has also been an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

## Mission



The Indian Army provides that "The Indian Army is the land component of the Indian Armed Forces which exists to uphold the ideals of the Constitution of India." As a major component of national power, alongside the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, the roles of the Indian Army are as follows:

- Primary: Preserve national interests and safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of India against any external threats by deterrence or by waging war.
- Secondary: Assist Government agencies to cope with 'proxy war' and other internal threats and provide aid to civil authority when requisitioned for the purpose.<sup>[5]</sup>

## History

### British Indian Army

Further information: List of regiments of the Indian Army (1903)

A Military Department was created within the Supreme Government of the East India Company at Kolkata in the year 1776. Its main function was to sift and record orders relating to the Army that were issued by various Departments of the Government of the East India Company<sup>[6]</sup>

With the Charter Act of 1833, the Secretariat of the Government of the East India Company was reorganized into four Departments, including a Military Department. The army in the Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay & Madras functioned as respective Presidency Army until April 1895, when the Presidency Armies were unified into a single Indian Army. For administrative convenience, it was divided into four commands at that point of time, namely Punjab (including the North West Frontier), Bengal, Madras (including Burma) and Bombay (including Sind, Quetta and Aden).<sup>[7]</sup>

The British Indian Army was a critical force for the primacy of the British Empire both in India and across the world. Besides maintaining the internal security of the British Raj, the Army fought in many other theaters - Anglo-Burmese Wars, First and Second Anglo-Sikh Wars, First, Second and Third Anglo-Afghan Wars, First and Second Opium Wars in China, Abyssinia, Boxer Rebellion in China.

### First World War

In the 20th century, the British Indian Army was a crucial adjunct to the British forces in both the World Wars.

1.3 million Indian soldiers served in World War I (1914–1918) for the Allies, after the United Kingdom made vague promises of self-governance to the Indian National Congress in return for its support. Britain reneged on its promises after the war, following which the Indian Independence movement gained strength. 74,187 Indian troops were killed or missing in action in the war.<sup>[8]</sup>

The "Indianisation" of the British Indian Army began with the formation of the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College at Dehradun in March 1912 with the purpose of providing education to the scions of aristocratic and well to do Indian families and to prepare selected Indian boys for admission into the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Indian officers given a King's commission after passing out were posted to one of the eight units selected for Indianisation. Political pressure due to the slow pace of Indianisation, just 69 officers being commissioned between 1918 and 1932, led to the formation of the Indian Military Academy in 1932 and greater numbers of officers of Indian origin being commissioned.<sup>[9]</sup>



Indian Army personnel during Operation Crusader in Egypt, 1941.

### Second World War

In World War II Indian soldiers fought for the Allies. In 1939, British officials had no plan for expansion and training of Indian forces, which comprised about 130,000 men (in addition there were 44,000 men in British units in India in 1939.) Their mission was internal security and defense against a possible Russian threat through Afghanistan. As the war progressed, the size and role of the Indian Army expanded dramatically, and troops were sent to battle fronts as soon as possible. The most serious problem was lack of equipment.<sup>[10]</sup>

With the fall of Singapore in 1942, about 40,000 Indian soldiers were captured. They were given a choice and 30,000 joined the Indian National Army. Those who refused became POWs and were mostly shipped to New Guinea.<sup>[11]</sup> Japan's Indian National Army had little effect on the war.<sup>[12]</sup>

In the African and Middle-Eastern Campaigns, captured Indian troops were given a choice to join the German Army to eventually "liberate" India from Great Britain instead of being sent to POW camps. Those along with Indian students who were in Germany when the war broke out made what was called the Free India Legion. They were originally intended as pathfinders for German forces in Asia but they soon were sent to help guard the Atlantic Wall. Few who were part of the Free India Legion ever saw any combat and very few were ever stationed outside of Europe. At its height the Free India Legion had over 3,000 troops in its ranks.<sup>[13]</sup>

Indian units served in Burma, where in 1944-45 five Indian divisions were engaged along with one British and three African divisions. Even larger numbers operated in the Middle East. Some 87,000 Indian soldiers died in the war.

## **Inception**

Upon independence and the subsequent Partition of India in 1947, four of the ten Gurkha regiments were transferred to the British Army. The rest of the British Indian Army was divided between the newly created nations of Republic of India and Republic of Pakistan. The Punjab Boundary Force, which had been formed to help police the Punjab during the partition period, was disbanded,<sup>[14]</sup> and Headquarters Delhi and East Punjab Command was formed to administer the area.

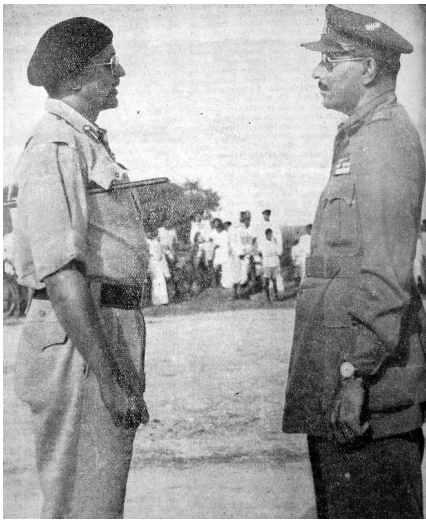
## **Conflicts and Operations**

### **First Kashmir War (1947)**

Immediately after independence, tensions between India and Pakistan began to boil over, and the first of three full-scale wars between the two nations broke out over the then princely state of Kashmir. Upon the Maharaja of Kashmir's eagerness to accede to India against the will of the 95% Muslim population of Kashmir, a 'tribal' invasion of parts of Kashmir began with mostly people from the NWFP region helping out the local Kashmiri population.<sup>[15]</sup> The men included Pakistan army regulars. Soon after, Pakistan sent in more of its troops to prevent Indian annexation by force. The Maharaja, Hari Singh, appealed to India, and to Lord Mountbatten of Burma, the Governor General, for help. He signed the Instrument of Accession which was largely seen as a deal by the Kashmiri population and Kashmir acceded to India (a decision ratified by Britain). Immediately after, Indian troops were airlifted to Srinagar.<sup>[15]</sup> This contingent included General Thimayya who distinguished himself in the operation and in years that followed, became a Chief of the Indian Army. An intense war was waged across the state and former comrades found themselves fighting each other. Both sides made some territorial gains and also suffered significant losses.

An uneasy UN sponsored peace returned by the end of 1948 with Indian and Pakistani soldiers facing each other directly on the Line of Control, which has since divided Indian-held Kashmir from Pakistan-held Kashmir. A host of UN Resolutions<sup>[16]</sup>(38-47) were passed calling for a plebiscite to be held in Kashmir to determine accession to India or Pakistan. These Resolutions<sup>[16]</sup> however were never accepted by India. Tensions between India and Pakistan, largely over Kashmir, have never since been entirely eliminated.

## Inclusion of Hyderabad (1948)



Major General El Edroos (at right) offers his surrender of the Hyderabad State Forces to Major General (later General and Army Chief) Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri at Secunderabad

After the partition of India, the State of Hyderabad, a princely-state under the rule of a Nizam, chose to remain independent. The Nizam, refused to accede his state to the Union of India. The following stand-off between the Government of India and the Nizam ended on 12 September 1948 when India's then deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ordered Indian troops to secure the state. With 5 days of low-intensity fighting, the Indian Army, backed by a squadron of Hawker Tempest aircraft of the Indian Air Force, routed the Hyderabad State forces. Five infantry battalions and one armoured squadron of the Indian Army were engaged in the operation. The following day, the State of Hyderabad was proclaimed as a part of the Union of India. Major General Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri, who led the Operation Polo was appointed the Military Governor of Hyderabad (1948–1949) to restore law and order.

## Medical Assistance during Korean War (1950-1953)

During the Korean War, India sent the 60th (Parachute) Field Ambulance unit to aid the UN troops fighting against the Chinese and North Korean invasion of South Korea, though they decided against sending combat forces. The 60th PFA was included in the 1st Commonwealth Division. In the aftermath of the war, Indian soldiers were also sent to Korea to peace-keep.

## Liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu (1961)

Even though the British and French vacated all their colonial possessions in the Indian subcontinent, Portugal refused to relinquish control of its Indian colonies of Goa, Daman and Diu. After repeated attempts by India to negotiate with Portugal for the return of its territory were spurned by Portuguese prime minister and dictator, Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, India launched Operation Vijay on 12 December 1961 to evict the Portuguese. A small contingent of its troops entered Goa, Daman and Diu to liberate and secure the territory. After a brief conflict, in which 31 Portuguese soldiers were killed, the Portuguese Navy frigate NRP Afonso de Albuquerque destroyed, and over 3,000 Portuguese captured, Portuguese General Manuel António Vassalo e Silva surrendered to the Indian Army, after twenty-six hours and Goa, Daman and Diu joined the Indian Union.

## Sino-Indian Conflict (1962)

The cause of the war was a dispute over the sovereignty of the widely-separated Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh border regions. Aksai Chin, claimed by India to belong to Kashmir and by China to be part of Xinjiang, contains an important road link that connects the Chinese regions of Tibet and Xinjiang. China's construction of this road was one of the triggers of the conflict.

Small-scale clashes between the Indian and Chinese forces broke out as India insisted on the disputed McMahon Line being regarded as the international border between the two countries. Chinese troops claim to have not retaliated to the cross-border firing by Indian troops, despite sustaining losses.<sup>[17]</sup> China's suspicion of India's involvement in Tibet created more rifts between the two countries.<sup>[18]</sup>

In 1962, the Indian Army was ordered to move to the Thag La ridge located near the border between Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh and about three miles (5 km) north of the disputed McMahon Line. Meanwhile, Chinese troops too had made incursions into Indian-held territory and tensions between the two reached a new high when Indian forces discovered a road constructed by China in Aksai Chin. After a series of failed negotiations, the People's

Liberation Army attacked Indian Army positions at the Thag La ridge. This move by China caught India by surprise and by 12 October, Nehru gave orders for the Chinese to be expelled from Aksai Chin. However, poor coordination among various divisions of the Indian Army and the late decision to mobilize the Indian Air Force in vast numbers gave China a crucial tactical and strategic advantage over India. On 20 October, Chinese soldiers attacked India in both the North-West and North-Eastern parts of the border and captured vast portions of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh.

As the fighting moved beyond disputed territories, China called on the Indian government to negotiate, however India remained determined to regain lost territory. With no peaceful agreement in sight, China unilaterally withdrew its forces from Arunachal Pradesh. The reasons for the withdrawal are disputed with India claiming various logistical problems for China and diplomatic support to it from the United States, while China stated that it still held territory that it had staked diplomatic claim upon. The dividing line between the Indian and Chinese forces was named the Line of Actual Control.

The poor decisions made by India's military commanders, and, indeed, its political leadership, raised several questions. The Henderson-Brooks & Bhagat committee was soon set up by the Government of India to determine the causes of the poor performance of the Indian Army. The report of China even after hostilities began and also criticized the decision to not allow the Indian Air Force to target Chinese transport lines out of fear of Chinese aerial counter-attack on Indian civilian areas. Much of the blame was also targeted at the incompetence of then Defence Minister, Krishna Menon who resigned from his post soon after the war ended. Despite frequent calls for its release, the Henderson-Brooks report still remains classified.<sup>[19]</sup> Neville Maxwell has written an account of the war.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Indo-Pakistani War of 1965

A second confrontation with Pakistan took place in 1965, largely over Kashmir. Pakistani President Ayub Khan launched *Operation Gibraltar* in August 1965, during which several Pakistani paramilitary troops infiltrated into Indian-administered Kashmir and attempt to ignite an anti-India agitation in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani leaders believed that India, which was still recovering from the disastrous Sino-Indian War, would be unable to deal with a military thrust and a Kashmiri rebellion. India reacted swiftly and launched a counter offensive on Pakistan. Pakistan launched Operation Grand Slam in reply on 1 September, invading India's Chamb-Jaurian sector. In retaliation, the India's Army launched a major offensive throughout its border with Pakistan, with Lahore as its prime target.

Initially, the Indian Army met with considerable success in the northern sector. After launching prolonged artillery barrages against Pakistan, India was able to capture three important mountain positions in Kashmir. By 9 September, the Indian Army had made considerable in-roads into Pakistan. India had its largest haul of Pakistani tanks when the offensive of Pakistan's 1st Armoured Division was blunted at the Battle of Asal Uttar, which took place on 10 September near Khemkaran.<sup>[21]</sup> The biggest tank battle of the war came in the form of the Battle of Chawinda, the largest tank battle in history after World War II. Pakistan's defeat at the Battle of Asal Uttar hastened the end of the conflict.<sup>[21]</sup>

At the time of ceasefire declaration, India reported casualties of about 3,500 killed. On the other hand, it was estimated that about 3,800 Pakistani soldiers were killed in the battle.<sup>[22][23][24]</sup> About 190 Pakistani tanks were either destroyed or captured by India. India lost a total of 175 tanks during the conflict and about 100 more had to undergo repair.<sup>[21][25]</sup> the decision to return back to pre-war positions, following the Tashkent Declaration, caused an outcry among the polity in New Delhi. It was widely believed that India's decision to accept the ceasefire was due to political factors, and not military, since it was facing considerable pressure from the United States and the UN to



Tanks of 18th Cavalry of the Indian Army take charge at Pakistani positions during the 1965 war.

stop hostilities.<sup>[26]</sup>

## Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

An independence movement broke out in East Pakistan which was brutally crushed by Pakistani forces. Due to large-scale atrocities against them, thousands of Bengalis took refuge in neighboring India causing a major refugee crisis there. In early 1971, India declared its full-support for the Bengali rebels, known as Mukti Bahini, and Indian agents were extensively involved in covert operations to aid them.

On 20 November 1971, Indian Army moved the 14 Punjab Battalion 45 Cavalry into Garibpur, a strategically important town near India's border with East Pakistan, and successfully captured it. The following day, more clashes took place between Indian and Pakistani forces. Wary of India's growing involvement in the Bengali rebellion, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) launched a preemptive strike on 10 Indian air bases at Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Agra, Adampur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Uttarlai and Sirsa at 1745 hours on 3 December. This aerial offensive, however, failed to accomplish its stated objectives and gave India its excuse to declare a full-scale war against Pakistan the same day. By midnight, the Indian Army, accompanied by Indian Air Force, launched a major three-pronged assault into East Pakistan. The Indian Army won several battles on the eastern front including the decisive of battle of Hilli, which was the only front where the Pakistani Army was able to build up considerable resistance. The operation also included a battalion-level airborne operation on Tangail which resulted in the capitulation of all resistance within five days.<sup>[27]</sup> India's massive early gains was largely attributed to the speed and flexibility with which Indian armored divisions moved across East Pakistan.<sup>[28]</sup>

Pakistan launched a counter-attack against India on the western front. On 4 December 1971, the A company of the 23rd Battalion of India's Punjab Regiment detected and intercepted the movement of the 51st Infantry Brigade of the Pakistani Army near Ramgarh, Rajasthan. The battle of Longewala ensued during which the A company, though being outnumbered, thwarted the Pakistani advance until the Indian Air Force directed its fighters to engage the Pakistani tanks. By the time the battle had ended, 34 Pakistani tanks and 50 armored vehicles were either destroyed or abandoned. About 200 Pakistani troops were killed in action during the battle while only 2 Indian soldiers lost their lives. Pakistan suffered another major defeat on the western front during the battle of Basantar which was fought from 4 December to 16th. By the end of the battle, about 66 Pakistani tanks were destroyed and 40 more were captured. In return, Pakistani forces were able to destroy only 11 Indian tanks. None of the numerous Pakistani offensives on the Western front materialized.<sup>[29]</sup> By 16 December, Pakistan had lost sizable territory on both eastern and western fronts.

Under the command of Lt. General J.S. Arora, the three corps of the Indian Army, which had invaded East Pakistan, entered Dhaka and forced Pakistani forces to surrender on 16 December 1971, one day after the conclusion of the battle of Basantar. After Pakistan's Lt. General A.A.K. Niazi signed the Instrument of Surrender, India took more than 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war. At the time of the signing of the Instrument of Surrender, 9,000 Pakistani soldiers were killed-in-action while India suffered only 2,500 battle-related deaths.<sup>[23]</sup> In addition, Pakistan lost 200 tanks during the battle compared to India's 80.<sup>[30]</sup>

In 1972, the Simla Agreement was signed between the two countries and tensions simmered. However, there were occasional spurts in diplomatic tensions which culminated into increased military vigilance on both sides.

## Siachen conflict (1984)

{{Main|Siachen conflict}} The Siachen Glacier, though a part of the Kashmir region, was not officially demarcated on maps prepared and exchanged between the two sides in 1947. As a consequence, prior to the 1980s, neither India nor Pakistan maintained any permanent military presence in the region. However, Pakistan began conducting and allowing a series of mountaineering expeditions to the glacier beginning in the 1950s. By early 1980s, the government of Pakistan was granting special expedition permits to mountaineers and United States Army maps deliberately showed Siachen as a part of Pakistan. This practice gave rise to the contemporary meaning of the term

oropolitics.

India, possibly irked by these developments, launched Operation Meghdoot in April 1984. The entire Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army was airlifted to the glacier. Pakistani forces responded quickly and clashes between the two followed. Indian Army secured the strategic Sia La and Bilafond La mountain passes and by 1985, more than 1,000 square miles (2,600 km<sup>2</sup>) of territory, 'claimed' by Pakistan, was under Indian control.[29] The Indian Army continues to control all of the Siachen Glacier and its tributary glaciers. Pakistan made several unsuccessful attempts to regain control over Siachen. In late 1987, Pakistan mobilized about 8,000 troops and garrisoned them near Khapalu, aiming to capture Bilafond La.[30] However, they were repulsed by Indian Army personnel guarding Bilafond. During the battle, about 23 Indian soldiers lost their lives while more than 150 Pakistani troops perished.[31] Further unsuccessful attempts to reclaim positions were launched by Pakistan in 1990, 1995, 1996 and 1999, most notably in Kargil that year.

India continues to maintain a strong military presence in the region despite extremely inhospitable conditions. The conflict over Siachen is regularly cited as an example of mountain warfare.[32] The highest peak in the Siachen glacier region, Saltoro Kangri, could be viewed as strategically important for India because of its immense altitude which could enable the Indian forces to monitor some Pakistani or Chinese movements in the immediate area.[33] Maintaining control over Siachen poses several logistical challenges for the Indian Army. Several infrastructure projects were constructed in the region, including a helipad 21,000 feet (6,400 m) above the sea level.[34] In 2004, Indian Army was spending an estimated US\$2 million a day to support its personnel stationed in the region.[35]).</ref>

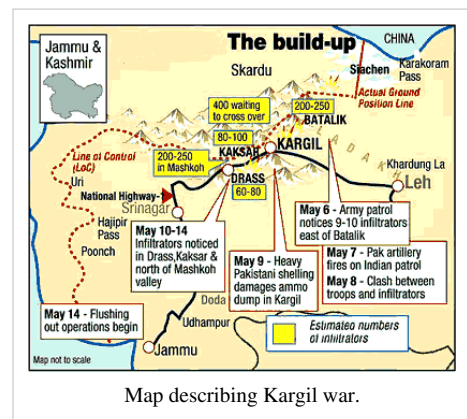
## Counter-insurgency activities

The Indian Army has played a crucial role in the past, fighting insurgents and terrorists within the nation. The army launched Operation Bluestar and Operation Woodrose in the 1980s to combat Sikh insurgents. The army, along with some paramilitary forces, has the prime responsibility of maintaining law and order in the troubled Jammu and Kashmir region. The Indian Army also sent a contingent to Sri Lanka in 1987 as a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

## Kargil conflict (1999)

In 1998, India carried out nuclear tests and a few days later, Pakistan responded by more nuclear tests giving both countries nuclear deterrence capability. Diplomatic tensions eased after the Lahore Summit was held in 1999. The sense of optimism was short-lived, however, since in mid-1999 Pakistani paramilitary forces and Kashmiri insurgents captured deserted, but strategic, Himalayan heights in the Kargil district of India. These had been vacated by the Indian army during the onset of the inhospitable winter and were supposed to be reoccupied in spring. The regular Pakistani troops who took control of these areas received important support, both in the form of arms and supplies, from Pakistan. Some of the heights under their control, which also included the *Tiger Hill*, overlooked the vital Srinagar-Leh Highway (NH 1A), Batalik and Dras.

Once the scale of the Pakistani incursion was realized, the Indian Army quickly mobilized about 200,000 troops and Operation Meghdoot was launched. However, since the heights were under Pakistani control, India was in a clear strategic disadvantage. From their observation posts, the Pakistani forces had a clear line-of-sight to lay down indirect artillery fire on NH 1A, inflicting heavy casualties on the Indians.<sup>[31]</sup> This was a serious problem for the Indian Army as the highway was its main logistical and supply route.<sup>[32]</sup> Thus, the Indian Army's first priority was to recapture peaks that were in the immediate vicinity of NH1a. This resulted in Indian troops first targeting the Tiger





Hill and Tololing complex in Dras.<sup>[33]</sup> This was soon followed by more attacks on the Batalik-Turtok sub-sector which provided access to Siachen Glacier. Point 4590, which had the nearest view of the NH1a, was successfully recaptured by Indian forces on 14 June.<sup>[34]</sup>

Though most of the posts in the vicinity of the highway were cleared by mid-June, some parts of the highway near Drass witnessed sporadic shelling until the end of the war. Once NH1a area was cleared, the Indian Army turned to driving the invading force back across the Line of Control. The Battle of Tololing, among other assaults, slowly tilted the combat in India's favor. Nevertheless, some of the posts put up a stiff resistance, including Tiger Hill (Point 5140) that fell only later in the war. As the operation was fully underway, about 250 artillery guns were brought in to clear the infiltrators in the posts that were in the line-of-sight. In many vital points, neither artillery nor air power could dislodge the outposts manned by the Pakistan soldiers, who were out of visible range. The Indian Army mounted some direct frontal ground assaults which were slow and took a heavy toll given the steep ascent that had to be made on peaks as high as 18,000 feet (5,500 m). Two months into the conflict, Indian troops had slowly retaken most of the ridges they had lost;<sup>[35][36]</sup> according to official count, an estimated 75%–80% of the intruded area and nearly all high ground was back under Indian control.



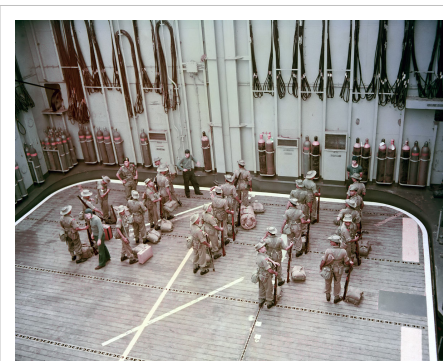
Memorial of Operation Vijay.

Following the Washington accord on 4 July, where Sharif agreed to withdraw Pakistani troops, most of the fighting came to a gradual halt, but some Pakistani forces remained in positions on the Indian side of the LOC. In addition, the United Jihad Council (an umbrella for all extremist groups) rejected Pakistan's plan for a climb-down, instead deciding to fight on.<sup>[37]</sup> The Indian Army launched its final attacks in the last week of July; as soon as the Drass subsector had been cleared of Pakistani forces, the fighting ceased on 26 July. The day has since been marked as *Kargil Vijay Diwas* (Kargil Victory Day) in India. By the end of the war, India had resumed control of all territory south and east of the Line of Control, as was established in July 1972 per the Shimla Accord. By the time all hostilities had ended, the number of Indian soldiers killed during the conflict stood at 527.<sup>[38]</sup> while more than 700 regular members of the Pakistani army were killed.<sup>[39]</sup> The number of Islamist fighters, also known as *Mujahideen*, killed by Indian Armed Forces during the conflict stood at about 3,000.

## United Nations Peacekeeping Missions

The Indian Army has undertaken numerous UN peacekeeping missions:<sup>[40]</sup>

- Angola, UNAVEM I, 1988–1991
- Angola, UNAVEM II, 1991–1995
- Angola, UNAVEM III, 1995–1997
- Angola, MONUA, 1997–1999
- Bosnia & Herzegovina, UNMIBH, 1995–2002
- Cambodia, UNAMIC, 1991–1992
- Cambodia, UNTAC, 1992–1993
- Central America, ONUCA, 1989–1992
- Congo, ONUC, 1960–1964
- El Salvador, ONUSAL, 1991–1995
- Ethiopia & Eritrea, UNMEE, 2000–2008



Indian Army soldiers arrive in Korea in September 1953 for peacekeeping along the neutral buffer zone

- Haiti, UNMIH, 1993–1996
- Haiti, UNSMIH, 1996–1997
- Haiti, UNTMIH, 1997
- Haiti, MIPONUH, 1997–2000
- Iran & Iraq, UNIIMOG, 1988–1991
- Iraq & Kuwait, UNIKOM, 1991–2003
- Israel, UNDOF
- Liberia, UNOMIL, 1993–1997
- Lebanon, UNOGL, UNIFIL, 1958
- Middle East, UNEF I, 1956–1967
- Mozambique, ONUMOZ, 1992–1994
- Namibia, UNTAG, 1989–1990
- Rwanda, UNAMIR, 1993–1996
- Sierra Leone, UNOMSIL, 1998–1999
- Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL, 1999–2005
- Somalia, UNOSOM, 1993–1995
- Yemen, UNYOM, 1963–1964

The Indian army also provided paramedical units to facilitate the withdrawal of the sick and wounded in the Korean War.

## Major exercises

### Operation Brasstacks

Operation Brasstacks was launched by the Indian Army in November 1986 to simulate a full-scale war on the western border. The exercise was the largest ever conducted in India and comprised nine infantry, three mechanised, three armoured and one air assault division, and included three independent armoured brigades. Amphibious assault exercises were also conducted with the Indian Navy. Brasstacks also allegedly incorporated nuclear attack drills. It led to tensions with Pakistan and a subsequent rapprochement in mid-1987.<sup>[41][42]</sup>

### Operation Parakram

After the 13 December 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament, Operation Parakram was launched in which tens of thousands of Indian troops were deployed along the Indo-Pakistan border. India blamed Pakistan for backing the attack. The operation was the largest military exercise carried out by any Asian country. Its prime objective is still unclear but appears to have been to prepare the army for any future nuclear conflict with Pakistan, which seemed increasingly possible after the December attack on the Indian parliament.



Indian Army's T-72 with UN markings at the Belgian compound in Kismayo, Somalia, in support of Operation *Continue Hope* as a part of UNOSOM.



Indian Army T-90 tanks take part during an exercise in the Thar Desert.

### Operation Sanghe Shakti

It has since been stated that the main goal of this exercise was to validate the mobilisation strategies of the Ambala-based *II Strike Corps*. Air support was a part of this exercise, and an entire battalion of paratroops parachuted in during the conduction of the war games, with allied equipment. Some 20,000 soldiers took part in the exercise.

### Exercise Ashwamedha

Indian Army tested its network centric warfare capabilities in the exercise Ashwamedha. The exercise was held in the Thar desert, in which over 300,000 troops participated.<sup>[43]</sup> Asymmetric warfare capability was also tested by the Indian Army during the exercise.<sup>[44]</sup>

### Operation Sudarshan Sakthi

It took place at Baundi village, 40 km. south east of Barmer in Rajasthan on 6 December 2011. The Exercise, helmed by southern army command and the south western air command, seeks to build synergy between the army and the air force in a network centric environment. The exercise would take place in a theater of 175 km x 150 km area covering Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pokhran and Pachpadra, said an officer from 21 Corps. Both T-90 and T-72 tanks along with heavy duty guns would be in action in the exercise, the built up for which had began since September end.

### Yudh Abhays

Exercise YUDH ABHYAS is part of an ongoing series of joint exercises between the Indian and United States Armies since 2005, agreed upon under the New Framework of India-US Defence Relationship.

Commencing at the platoon level, the exercise has graduated to a command post (CPX) and field training exercise (FTX).

The seventh edition of Yudh Abhyas is currently underway since 05 March 2012 in two locations under the South Western Command. The US Army contingent is from the US Army Pacific (USARPAC), part of their Pacific Command (PACOM). The Command Post Exercise has an engineer brigade headquarters with its planners from both sides, while the Field Training Exercise comprises troops of 2nd Squadron 14th US Cavalry Regiment from 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii, along with a platoon of Strykers, and a similar sized Indian Army contingent of mechanized infantry. The event is all the more interesting as a number of key surveillance, communications and Improvised Explosive Devices detection and neutralisation technologies, available with both sides have been fielded in the exercise<sup>[45]</sup>.



Yudh Abhyas 2012 - U.S. and Indian Army military exercise Trailer (Produced and Shot by SSG Robert Ham. Cultural Advisor, SPC Mohan Pagonda. Music by Celldweller. Song - ShutEmDown)

### Exercise Shoorveer

On first week of April 2012 Indian Army has launched a massive summer exercise in the Rajasthan desert involving over 50,000 troops and several hundred artillery guns and infantry combat vehicles as part of its efforts to shore up its battle worthiness on the western front with Pakistan. The exercise, code-named "Shoorveer", is being conducted by the Jaipur-based South Western Command and will end in the first week of May. This is the largest ever exercise conducted by Indian army since 1947.

The collective training started with honing up of basic battle procedures and tactical drills at tactical level. A number of field firings are being carried out to check the accuracy and lethality of the weapon systems. A large number of innovations and modifications carried out by units and formations to enhance combat power are being tested in the field. The troops will build the momentum of training gradually, with increased combat tempo to set the stage for a

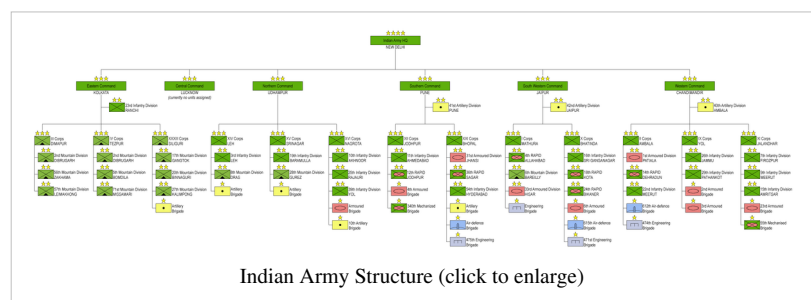
major joint army-air force exercise in the later part of the exercise<sup>[46]</sup>. The collective training started with honing up of basic battle procedures and tactical drills at tactical level. The exercise Shoorveer is scheduled to culminate when Sapta Shakti Command along with Indian Air Force will carry out swift battle manoeuvres and joint operations. A number of field firings are being carried out to check the accuracy and lethality of the weapon systems.

### Exercise Rudra Akrosh

On May 2012 Indian army start testing the preparedness level of its units and to validate new age technology, battle concepts, organisational structures and networked operations, Western Army Command is conducting its summer training exercises in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. "Codename Exercise Rudra Akrosh, the war games are aimed to validate the operational and transformational effectiveness of various formations under the Western Army Command. The exercise which entered its culmination phase was also witnessed by Western Army Commander Lt General S R Ghosh. It includes various summer training manoeuvres where approximately 20,000 troops tested battle skills with state-of-the-art weapon systems in complete integration of the fighter and transport aircraft pitched in by the Indian Air Force. Besides interacting with the soldiers and officers coordinating the war games, Lt Gen Ghosh witnessed various battle manoeuvres by infantry troops, mechanised infantry, tanks, artillery, Heliborne troops and surveillance equipment. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and attack helicopters were also coopted in the operational scenario. Recently, the Jaipur-based South Western Command- also known as Sapta Shakti command- conducted its summer war games with more than 50,000 troops, latest weaponry and air assets<sup>[47]</sup>.

## Structure

The army has a strength of about a million troops and fields 34 divisions. Its headquarters is located in the Indian capital New Delhi and it is under the overall command of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), currently General V K Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC



Initially, the army's main objective was

to defend the nation's frontiers. However, over the years, the army has also taken up the responsibility of providing internal security, especially in insurgent-hit Kashmir and north-east.

Recently it has been proposed to enhance the strength of army by more than 90,000 to counter the increasing presence of Chinese troops along the LAC.

## Commands

The army operates 7 operational commands. Each command is headed by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with the rank of Lieutenant General. Each command is directly affiliated to the Army HQ in New Delhi. These commands are given below in their correct order of raising, location (city) and their commanders. There is also the Army Training Command abbreviated as ARTRAC. The staff in each Command HQ is headed by Chief Of Staff (COS) who is also an officer of Lieutenant General rank. Besides these army officers may head tri-service commands such as the Strategic Forces command and the Andaman and Nicobar Command.



## Corps

A corps is an army field formation responsible for a zone within a command theatre. There are three types of corps in the Indian Army: Strike, Holding and Mixed. A command generally consists of two or more corps. A corps has Army divisions under its command. The Corps HQ is the highest field formation in the army. Further information is available from Richard A. Renaldi and Ravi Rikhe, 'Indian Army Order of Battle,' Orbat.com for Tiger Lily Books: A division of General Data LLC, ISBN 978-0-9820541-7-8, 2011.



### **Headquarters, Indian Army, New Delhi**

- 50th Independent Parachute Brigade headquartered at Agra
- **Central Command**, headquartered at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
  - I Corps — Currently assigned to South Western Command
- **Eastern Command**, headquartered at Kolkata, West Bengal
  - 23rd Infantry Division headquartered at Ranchi
  - ? Artillery Division(PROPOSED)
  - ? Corps, headquartered at Panagarh, West Bengal(PROPOSED)
  - III Corps, headquartered at Dimapur, Nagaland
    - 2nd Mountain Division headquartered at Dibrugarh
    - 57th Mountain Division headquartered at Leimakhong
    - 56th Mountain Division headquartered at Zakhama
  - IV Corps, headquartered at Tezpur, Assam
    - 71st Mountain Division headquartered at Missamari
    - 5th Mountain Division headquartered at Bomdila
    - 21st Mountain Division headquartered at Rangia
  - XXXIII Corps, headquartered at Siliguri, West Bengal
    - 17th Mountain Division headquartered at Gangtok
    - 20th Mountain Division headquartered at Binnaguri
    - 27th Mountain Division headquartered at Kalimpong
    - ?th Artillery brigade
- **Northern Command**, headquartered at Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
  - XIV Corps, headquartered at Leh, Jammu and Kashmir
    - 3rd Infantry Division headquartered at Leh
    - 8th Mountain Division headquartered at Dras
    - ?th Artillery brigade
  - XV Corps, headquartered at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
    - 19th Infantry Division headquartered at Baramulla,
    - 28th Mountain Division headquartered at Gurez
    - ?th Artillery brigade
  - XVI Corps, headquartered at Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir
    - 10th Infantry Division headquartered at Akhnoor
    - 25th Infantry Division headquartered at Rajauri
    - 39th Infantry Division headquartered at Yol
    - 10 Artillery brigade
    - ?th Armoured brigade
- **Southern Command**, headquartered at Pune, Maharashtra
  - 41st Artillery Division, headquartered at Pune, Maharashtra

- XII Corps, headquartered at Jodhpur, Rajasthan
    - 4th Armoured Brigade
    - 340th Mechanised Brigade
    - 11th Infantry Division headquartered at Ahmedabad
    - 12th Infantry Division (converting to RAPID) headquartered at Jodhpur
  - XXI Corps, headquartered at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
    - 31st Armoured Division headquartered at Jhansi
    - 36th RAPID Sagar
    - 54th Infantry Division (India) headquartered at Hyderabad/Secunderabad
    - ?th Artillery brigade
    - ?th Air defence brigade
    - 475th Engineering Brigade
  - **South Western Command**, headquartered at Jaipur, Rajasthan
    - 42nd Artillery Division headquartered at Jaipur
    - I Corps, headquartered at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
      - 4th Infantry Division (converting to RAPID ) headquartered at Allahabad
      - 6th Mountain Division headquartered at Bareilly
      - 33rd Armoured Division headquartered at Hisar
      - ?th Engineering Brigade
    - X Corps, headquartered at Bhatinda, Punjab
      - 16th Infantry Division headquartered at Sri Ganganagar
      - 18th RAPID at Kota
      - 24th RAPID at Bikaner
      - 6th Independent Armoured Brigade
      - 615th Independent Air Defence Brigade
      - 471st Engineering Brigade
  - **Western Command**, headquartered at Chandimandir
    - 40th Artillery Division headquartered at Ambala
    - II Corps, headquartered at Ambala, Haryana
      - 1st Armoured Division headquartered at Patiala
      - 14th RAPID at Dehradun
      - 22nd Infantry Division headquartered at Meerut
      - 474th Engineering Brigade
      - 612th Mechanised Independent Air Defence Brigade
    - IX Corps, headquartered at Yol, Himachal Pradesh
      - 26th Infantry Division headquartered at Jammu
      - 29th Infantry Division headquartered at Pathankot
      - 2nd Independent Armoured Brigade
      - 3rd Independent Armoured Brigade
    - XI Corps, headquartered at Jalandhar, Punjab
      - 7th Infantry Division headquartered at Firozpur
      - 9th Infantry Division headquartered at Meerut
      - 15th Infantry Division headquartered at Amritsar
      - 23rd Armoured Brigade
      - 55th Mechanised Brigade
-

- **Training Command**, headquartered at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

### **Regimental organisation**

In addition to this (not to be confused with the Field Corps mentioned above) are the Regiments or Corps or departments of the Indian Army. The corps mentioned below are the functional divisions entrusted with specific pan-Army tasks.

### **Arms**

1. Indian Infantry Regiments
2. Armoured Corps Regiments - The Armoured Corps Centre and School is at Ahmednagar.
3. Regiment of Artillery - The School of Artillery is at Devlali near Nasik.
4. Corps of Signals - Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow is a premiere training institute of the Corps of Signals.
5. Corps of Engineers - The College of Military Engineering is at Dapodi, Pune. The Centers are located as follows - Madras Engineer Group at Bangalore, Bengal Engineer Group at Roorkee and Bombay Engineer Group at Khadki, Pune.
6. Corps of Army Air Defence-Center at Gopalpur in Orissa State.
7. Mechanised Infantry - Regimental Center at Ahmednagar.
8. Army Aviation Corps(India)

The Indian Territorial Army has units from a number of corps which serve as a part-time reserve.

### **Services**

1. Army Dental Corps - Centered at Lucknow.
2. Army Education Corps - Centered at Pachmarhi.
3. Army Medical Corps - Centered at Lucknow.
4. Army Ordnance Corps - Centered at Jabalpur and Secunderabad (HQ).
5. Army Postal Service Corps - Centered at Kamptee near Nagpur.
6. Army Service Corps - Centered at Bangalore and Gaya
7. Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers - Centered at Bhopal and Secunderabad.
8. Corps of Military Police Indian Corps of Military Police - Centered at Bangalore
9. Intelligence Corps - Centered at Pune.
10. Judge Advocate General's Dept. - Centered at the Institute of Military Law kamptee, Nagpur.
11. Military Farms Service - Centered at the Military Farms School and Center, Meerut Cantt.
12. Military Nursing Service
13. Remount and Veterinary Corps
14. Pioneer Corps

## Other field formations

- **Division:** An Army Division is an intermediate between a Corps and a Brigade. It is the largest striking force in the army. Each Division is headed by [General Officer Commanding] (GOC) in the rank of Major General. It usually consists of 15,000 combat troops and 8,000 support elements. Currently, the Indian Army has 37<sup>[48]</sup> Divisions including 4 RAPID (Re-organised Army Plains Infantry Divisions) Action Divisions, 18 Infantry Divisions, 10 Mountain Divisions, 3 Armoured Divisions and 2 Artillery Divisions. Each Division composes of several Brigades.
- **Brigade:** A Brigade generally consists of around 3,000 combat troops with supporting elements. An Infantry Brigade usually has 3 Infantry Battalions along with various Support Arms & Services. It is headed by a Brigadier, equivalent to a Brigadier General in some armies. In addition to the Brigades in various Army Divisions, the Indian Army also has 5 Independent Armoured Brigades, 15 Independent Artillery Brigades, 7 Independent Infantry Brigades, 1 Independent Parachute Brigade, 3 Independent Air Defence Brigades, 2 Independent Air Defence Groups and 4 Independent Engineer Brigades. These Independent Brigades operate directly under the Corps Commander (GOC Corps).
- **Battalion:** A Battalion is commanded by a Colonel and is the Infantry's main fighting unit. It consists of more than 900 combat personnel.
- **Company:** Headed by the Major, a Company comprises 120 soldiers.
- **Platoon:** An intermediate between a Company and Section, a Platoon is headed by a Lieutenant or depending on the availability of Commissioned Officers, a Junior Commissioned Officer, with the rank of Subedar or Naib-Subedar. It has a total strength of about 32 troops.
- **Section:** Smallest military outfit with a strength of 10 personnel. Commanded by a Non-commissioned officer of the rank of Havildar Major or Sergeant Major.



A section of the Indian Army soldier during a reconnaissance mission training exercise in Alaska.

## Regiments

### Infantry regiments

Upon its inception, the Indian Army inherited the British Army's organizational structure which is still maintained today. Therefore, like its predecessor, an Indian Infantry Regiment's responsibility is not to undertake field operations but to provide battalions and well trained personnel to the field formations, as such it is common to find battalions of the same regiment spread across several brigades, divisions, corps, commands, and even theaters.

Infantry Regiments of the Indian Army recruit based on certain selection criteria, such as geographical location (the Punjab Regiment), Assam Rifles etc. some regimental recruitment criteria are unique to



Soldiers of the Rajput Regiment.



India with some regiment's recruitment pool falling on ethnicity, caste or religion such as the Gorkha Regiments, Jatt Regiment and Sikh Regiment respectively. Over the years various political and military factions have tried to dissolve the unique selection criteria process of the regiments over a fear that loyalty to the regiment or its ethnic people opposed to loyalty to the union of India and have succeeded somewhat with the creation of caste-less, religion-less, non-regional regiments, such as the Brigade of Guards & Parachute Regiment, but have generally met with little success or gained popular support amongst the rank and file Jawans.

Like its British and commonwealth counterparts troops enlisted within the regiment are immensely loyal and take great pride in the regiment they are assigned too and generally spend their entire career within the regiment.

Regiments in order of seniority within the Indian Army are:

- The Parachute Regiment
- Brigade of the Guards
- Maratha Light Infantry
- Mechanised Infantry Regiment
- Punjab Regiment
- Madras Regiment
- The Grenadiers
- Rajputana Rifles
- Rajput Regiment
- Jat Regiment
- Sikh Regiment
- Sikh Light Infantry
- Dogra Regiment
- Garhwal Rifles
- Kumaon Regiment
- Assam Regiment
- Bihar Regiment
- Mahar Regiment
- Jammu & Kashmir Rifles
- Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry
- Naga Regiment
- 1 Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)
- 3 Gorkha Rifles
- 4 Gorkha Rifles
- 5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)
- 8 Gorkha Rifles
- 9 Gorkha Rifles
- 11 Gorkha Rifles
- Ladakh Scouts
- Arunachal Scouts
- Sikkim Scouts<sup>[49]</sup> (Planned)



Soldiers of the Garhwal Rifles.



Soldiers of the Sikh Light Infantry.



Soldiers of the Madras Regiment.

- Mizo regiment<sup>[50]</sup> (Planned)
- Meghalaya regiment<sup>[51]</sup> (Planned)
- Manipur regiment<sup>[52]</sup> (Planned)

### Artillery regiments

The Regiment of Artillery constitutes a formidable operational arm of Indian Army. Historically it takes its lineage from Moghul Emperor Babur who is popularly credited with introduction of Artillery in India, in the Battle of Panipat in 1526. However evidence of earlier use of gun by Bahmani Kings in the Battle of Adoni in 1368 and King Mohammed Shah of Gujrat in fifteenth century have been recorded. Indian artillery units were disbanded after the 1857 rebellion and reformed only in 1935 when the Regiment was established.



Artillery Insignia

### Armoured regiments

There are 97 armoured regiments in the Indian Army. These include the following historic regiments dating back to the nineteenth century or earlier: 1st Skinner's Horse, the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), 3rd Cavalry, Hodson's Horse, 7th Light Cavalry, 8th Light Cavalry, 9th Royal Deccan Horse, Scinde Horse, Poona Horse, 15th Lancers, 16th Light Cavalry, 18th Cavalry, 20th Lancers, and the Central India Horse. A substantial number of additional units designated as either "Cavalry" or "Armoured" Regiments have been raised since Independence.

## Indian army staff and equipment

### Strength



The mounted President's Bodyguard during a state visit by a foreign dignitary.

Indian Army statistics <sup>[3]</sup>	
Active Troops	1,129,900
Reserve Troops	800,000*
Indian Territorial Army	160,000**

\* includes 300,000 1st line troops and 500,000 2nd line troops

\*\* only 40,000 regular establishment

## Formations

- 4 RAPIDs (Reorganised Army Plains Infantry Divisions)
- 18 Infantry Divisions
- 10 Mountain Divisions
- 3 Armoured Divisions
- 3 Artillery Divisions
- 3 Air Defence Brigades and 2 Surface-to-Air Missile Groups
- 5 Independent Armoured Brigades
- 15 Independent Artillery Brigades
- 7 Independent Infantry Brigades
- 1 Airborne Brigade
- 4 Engineer Brigades
- 41 Army Aviation Helicopter Units

## Sub-units

- 93 Tank Regiments (??)
- 32 Mechanised Infantry Battalions
- 50 Artillery Regiments
- 3 Parachute Battalions
- 7 Special Forces Battalions
- 23 Combat Helicopter Units
- 50 Air Defence Regiments



Soldiers from the 4th Rajput Infantry Battalion of the Indian Army handling INSAS rifles during a training mission.

## Rank structure

The various rank of the Indian Army are listed below in descending order:

### Commissioned Officers

- Field Marshal<sup>1</sup>
- General (the rank held by Chief of Army Staff)
- Lieutenant-General
- Major-General
- Brigadier
- Colonel
- Lieutenant-Colonel
- Major
- Captain
- Lieutenant

### Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) (Active and honorary)

- Subedar Major/Honorary Captain<sup>3</sup>
- Subedar/Honorary Lieutenant<sup>3</sup>
- Subedar Major/Risaldar Major
- Subedar/Risaldar
- Naib Subedar/Naib Risaldar

### Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs)

- Regimental Havildar Major/Regimental Daffadar Major<sup>2</sup>
- Regimental Quartermaster Havildar/Regimental Quartermaster Daffadar<sup>2</sup>
- Company Havildar Major/Squadron Daffadar Major
- Company Quartermaster Havildar/Squadron Quartermaster Daffadar
- Havildar/Daffadar

### Other Personnels

- Naik/Lance Daffadar
- Lance Naik/Acting Lance Daffadar
- Sepoy (infantry and other arms)/Sowar(Indian Army Armoured Corps)

Notes:

1. Only two officers have been made Field Marshal so far: Field Marshal K M Cariappa—the first Indian Commander-in-Chief (a post since abolished)—and Field Marshal S H F J Manekshaw, the Chief of Army Staff during the Army in the 1971 war with Pakistan.
2. This has now been discontinued. Non-Commissioned Officers in the rank of Havildar are eligible for Honorary JCO ranks.
3. Given to Outstanding JCO's Rank and pay of a Lieutenant, role continues to be of a JCO.



The 1st Battalion of 1 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army take position outside a simulated combat town during a training exercise.



Soldiers of the Indian Army's Assam Regiment stand guard near the India Gate war memorial in Delhi.



## Combat doctrine

The current combat doctrine of the Indian Army is based on effectively utilizing holding formations and strike formations. In the case of an attack, the holding formations would contain the enemy and strike formations would counter-attack to neutralize enemy forces. In the case of an Indian attack, the holding formations would pin enemy forces down whilst the strike formations attack at a point of Indian choosing. The Indian Army is large enough to devote several corps to the strike role. Currently, the army is also looking at enhancing its special forces capabilities. With the role of India increasing and the requirement for protection of India's interest in far off shores become important, the Indian Army and Indian Navy are jointly planning to set up a marine brigade.<sup>[53]</sup>

## Equipment

Most of the army equipment is imported, but efforts are being made to manufacture indigenous equipment. The Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a range of weapons for the Indian Army ranging from small arms, artillery, radars and the Arjun tank. All Indian Military small-arms are manufactured under the umbrella administration of the Ordnance Factory Board, with principal Firearm manufacturing facilities in Ichhapore, Cossipore, Kanpur, Jabalpur and Tiruchirapalli. The Indian National Small Arms System (INSAS) rifle, which is successfully inducted by Indian Army since 1997 is a product of the Ishapore Rifle Factory, while ammunition is manufactured at Khadki and possibly at Bolangir.

## Aircraft

The Army Aviation Corps is the main body of the Indian Army for tactical air transport, reconnaissance, and medical evacuation, while Indian Air Force's helicopter assets are responsible for assisting the army troop transport and close air support. It operates around 150 helicopters.

The Indian army had projected a requirement for a helicopter that can carry loads of up to 75 kg heights of 23000 feet (**unknown operator: u'strong' m**) on the Siachen Glacier in Jammu and Kashmir. Flying at these heights poses unique challenges due to the rarefied atmosphere. The Indian Army chose the Eurocopter AS 550 for a \$550 million contract for 197 light helicopters to replace its aging fleet of Chetaks and Cheetahs, some of which were inducted more than three decades ago.<sup>[54]</sup> The deal has however been scrapped amidst allegations of corruption during the bidding process.<sup>[55]</sup>

## Uniforms

The Indian Army camouflage consists of shirts, trousers and cap of a synthetic material. Shirts are buttoned up with two chest pockets with buttoned up flaps. Trousers have two pockets, two thigh box pockets and a back pocket. The Indian Army Jungle camouflage dress features a jungle camouflage pattern and is designed for use in woodland environments. The Indian Army Desert camouflage, which features a desert camouflage pattern, is used by artillery and infantry posted in dusty, semi-desert and desert areas of Rajasthan and its vicinity.



Arjun MBT



Nag missile and NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier).



Agni-II ballistic missile

The forces of the East India Company in India were forced by casualties to dye their white summer tunics to neutral tones, initially a tan called khaki (from the Hindi-Urdu word for "dusty"). This was a temporary measure which became standard in Indian service in the 1880s. Only during the Second Boer War in 1902, did the entire British Army standardise on dun for Service Dress. Indian Army uniform standardizes on dun for khaki.

The modern Indian Army wears distinctive parade uniforms characterised by variegated turbans and waist-sashes in regimental colours. The Gurkha and Garhwal Rifles and the Assam, Kumaon and the Naga Regiments wear broad brimmed hats of traditional style. Traditionally, all Rifle regiments and the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, Garhwal Rifles, Gurkha Rifles, and Rajputana Rifles) wear rank badges, buttons and blackened wire embroidered articles of uniform in black instead of the usual Brass (or gold) coloured as the original role of the rifle regiments was camouflage and concealment.

## Recipients of the Param Vir Chakra

Listed below are the most notable people to have received the Param Vir Chakra, the highest military decoration of the Indian Army.

Major Somnath Sharma	4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment	3 November 1947	Battle of Badgam, Kashmir, India
2 Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane	Corps of Engineers	8 April 1948	Battle of Naushera, Kashmir, India
Naik Jadu Nath Singh	1st Battalion, Rajput Regiment	February 1948	Battle of Naushera, Kashmir, India
Company Havildar Major Piru Singh	6th Battalion, Rajputana Rifles	17/18 July 1948	Tithwal, Kashmir, India
Lance Naik Karam Singh	1st Battalion, Sikh Regiment	13 October 1948	Tithwal, Kashmir, India
Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria	3rd Battalion, 1st Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)	5 December 1961	Elizabethville, Katanga, Congo
Major Dhan Singh Thapa	1st Battalion, 8th Gorkha Rifles	20 October 1962	Ladakh, India
Subedar Joginder Singh	1st Battalion, Sikh Regiment	23 October 1962	Tongpen La, Northeast Frontier Agency, India
Major Shaitan Singh	13th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment	18 November 1962	Rezang La
Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid	4th Battalion, The Grenadiers	10 September 1965	Chima, Khem Karan Sector
Lt Col Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore	The Poona Horse	15 October 1965	Phillora, Sialkot Sector, Pakistan
Lance Naik Albert Ekka	14th Battalion, Brigade of the Guards	3 December 1971	Gangasagar
2/Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal	The Poona Horse	16 December 1971	Jarpal, Shakargarh Sector
Major Hoshiar Singh	3rd Battalion, The Grenadiers	17 December 1971	Basantar River, Shakargarh Sector
Naib Subedar Bana Singh	8th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry	23 June 1987	Siachen Glacier, Jammu and Kashmir
Major Ramaswamy Parmeshwaran	8th Battalion, Mahar Regiment	25 November 1987	Sri Lanka
Captain Vikram Batra	13th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	6 July 1999	Point 5140, Point 4875, Kargil Area

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey	1st Battalion, 11th Gorkha Rifles	3 July 1999	Khaluber/Juber Top, Batalik sector, Kargil area, Jammu and Kashmir
Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav	18th Battalion, The Grenadiers	4 July 1999	Tiger Hill, Kargil area
Rifleman Sanjay Kumar	13th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	5 July 1999	Area Flat Top, Kargil Area

## Future developments

- Futuristic Infantry Soldier As a System (F-INSAS) is the Indian Army's principal modernization program from 2012 to 2020. In the first phase, to be completed by 2012, the infantry soldiers will be equipped with modular weapon systems that will have multi-functions. The Indian Army intends to modernize all of its 465 infantry and paramilitary battalions by 2020 with this program.
- India is currently re-organising its mechanised forces to achieve strategic mobility and high-volume firepower for rapid thrusts into enemy territory. India proposes to progressively induct as many as 248 Arjun MBT and develop and induct the Arjun MKII variant, 1,657 Russian-origin T-90S main-battle tanks (MBTs), apart from the ongoing upgrade of its T-72 fleet. The Army recently placed an order for 4,100 French-origin Milan-2T anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs). Defence ministry sources said the Rs 592-crore (approximately US\$120 million) order was cleared after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, with the government finally fast-tracking several military procurement plans.<sup>[56]</sup>
- The Army gained the Cabinet Committee on Security's approval to raise two new infantry mountain divisions (with around 15,000 combat soldiers each),<sup>[57]</sup> and an artillery brigade in 2008. These divisions were likely to be armed with ultralight howitzers. In July 2009, it was reported that the Army was advocating a new artillery division, said defence ministry sources.<sup>[58]</sup> The proposed artillery division, under the Kolkata-based Eastern Command, was to have three brigades—two of 155mm howitzers and one of the Russian "Smerch" and indigenous "Pinaka" multiple-launch rocket systems.
- The Indian Army plans to develop and induct a 155mm indigenous artillery gun within the next three and a half years.<sup>[59]</sup>

### Tanks and armored vehicles

- T-90 bhishma - India plans to induct Total 1657 tanks by 2020. 807 already in service.
- Arjun MBT - 248 On order - 170 inducted.
- Arjun MBT mk 2 - Trials started 2011. Production By 2014.
- FMBT - The FMBT will be a lighter tank of 50 tons. At conceptual stage.
- FICV - Future Infantry Combat Vehicle program of DRDO. It is supposed to replace Indian Army's current regiment of BMP-2 infantry combat vehicle.

### Missiles

- Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
  - Agni-V - 5,000 km-6,000 km, test by 2012.
  - Agni-VI
- Cruise Missiles



The TATA Group's contribution to F-INSAS

- Nirbhay Missile
- Brahmos and Brahmos Mk 2 missiles
- Tactical Ballistic Missiles
  - Prahaar (missile) - With a range of 150 km.<sup>[60]</sup>
  - Shaurya (missile) - It has a range of between 750 to 1900 km.
- Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
  - Nag Anti-tank guided missile
  - Helinag - Air launched variant of nag Anti-tank missile
  - CLGM (missile) - Cannon launch Anti-tank guided missile
- Indian Ballistic Missile Defense Program - The Indian Ballistic Missile Defense Program is an initiative to develop and deploy a multi-layered ballistic missile defense system to protect India from ballistic missile attacks.

#### Vehicles

- Mahindra Axe - Light utility vehicle to be purchased.
- Kroton - Possible sale of 80 mine laying vehicles from Poland.
- Light Tank - 300 tanks (200 tracked 100 wheeled) to be deployed on china border.
- AHS Krab - Possible sale of 110 from Poland. deal along with kroton.
- PZA Loara - Possible sale of 100 from Poland. deal along with Kroton.

#### Artillery

- Under the Field Artillery Rationalization Plan, Indian Army plans to procure 3000 to 4000

155 mm Towed, Wheeled and Tracked Artillery Systems. The requirement for artillery guns to be met with indigenous development and production.

- Modern Sub Machine Carbine - The Modern Sub Machine Carbine (MSMC) is the latest combined venture of ARDE & OFB, developed for the Indian Army on a platform of experiences from the INSAS rifle.

#### Army Aviation

- Procurement process for 197 light utility helicopters (LUH) is ongoing of which 64 will be inducted in the Army Aviation to replace the Cheetak and Cheetah Helicopters.
- HAL Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) or Light Utility helicopter (LUH) - Requirement for 384 helicopters including for army and air force.
- HAL has obtained a firm order to deliver 114 HAL Light Combat Helicopters to the Indian Army.<sup>[61]</sup>
- Rustom-1 UAV<sup>[62]</sup>

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# Regiments of the Indian Army

## List of regiments of the Indian Army

Regiments of the Indian Army:

### Indian Army Regiments

<div> <div>  </div> <div>Triservices Crest.</div> </div>	
Military Man Power	
Active troops	1,325,000 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Reserve forces	1,155,000 (7 <sup>th</sup> )
Paramilitary forces	1,293,300 (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Components	
Indian Army	
Indian Air Force	
Indian Navy	
Indian Coast Guard	
Paramilitary forces of India	
Strategic Nuclear Command	
History	
Military history of India	
Ranks	
Air Force ranks and insignia	
Army ranks and insignia	
Naval ranks and insignia	

order of precedence:

- Brigade of the Guards
- Gorkha Rifles
- Bihar Regiment
- Parachute Regiment

- Punjab Regiment
- Madras Regiment
- Grenadiers Regiment
- Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- Rajputana Rifles
- Rajput Regiment
- Jat Regiment
- Sikh Regiment
- Sikh Light Infantry
- Dogra Regiment
- Garhwal Rifles
- Kumaon Regiment
- Jammu & Kashmir Rifles
- Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
- Assam Regiment
- Mahar Regiment
- Mechanised Infantry Regiment
- Naga Regiment
- Ladakh Scouts
- Assam Rifles

### **Armoured Regiments (62)**

- President's Bodyguard
  - 1 Horse or Skinner's Horse
  - 2 Lancers
  - 3rd Cavalry
  - 4 Horse or 'Hodson's Horse'
  - 5 Armoured Regiment
  - 6 Lancers
  - 7 Cavalry
  - 8 Cavalry
  - 9 Horse or 'The Deccan Horse'
  - 10 Armoured Regiment
  - 11 Armoured Regiment
  - 12 Armoured Regiment
  - 13 Armoured Regiment
  - 14 Horse or 'The Scinde Horse'
  - 15 Armoured Regiment
  - 16 Cavalry
  - 17 Horse (The Poona Horse)
  - 18 Cavalry
  - 19 Armoured Regiment
  - 20 Lancers
  - Central India Horse (in 21st position)
  - 40 Armoured Regiment
  - 41 Armoured Regiment (India)
  - 42 Armoured Regiment
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- 43 Armoured Regiment- The only regiment in the Armoured Corps to hold the MBT Arjun as part of its standard weapons platform.
  - 44 Armoured Regiment
  - 45 Cavalry
  - 46 Armoured Regiment
  - 47 Armoured Regiment
  - 48 Armoured Regiment
  - 49 Armoured Regiment
  - 50 Armoured Regiment
  - 51 Armoured Regiment
  - 52 Armoured Regiment
  - 53 Armoured Regiment
  - 61 Cavalry
  - 62 Cavalry
  - 63 Cavalry
  - 64 Cavalry
  - 65 Armoured Regiment
  - 66 Armoured Regiment
  - 67 Armoured Regiment
  - 68 Armoured Regiment
  - 69 Armoured Regiment
  - 70 Armoured Regiment
  - 71 Armoured Regiment
  - 72 Armoured Regiment
  - 73 Armoured Regiment
  - 74 Armoured Regiment
  - 75 Armoured Regiment - the only Indian armoured regiment to have been raised on foreign soil during the 1971 Indo-Pak war at Gadra Road (now in Pakistan) on 12 March 1972.
  - 76 Armoured Regiment
  - 81 Armoured Regiment
  - 82 Armoured Regiment
  - 83 Armoured Regiment
  - 84 Armoured Regiment
  - 85 Armoured Regiment
  - 86 Armoured Regiment
  - 87 Armoured Regiment
  - 88 Armoured Regiment
  - 89 Armoured Regiment
  - 90 Armoured Regiment
-

## Units of the Regiment of Artillery

A few of the units of artillery are listed below:

- 9 Parachute Field Regiment
- 11 Field Regiment
- 15 Medium Regiment
- 16 Field Regiment
- 37 (Coorg) Anti-Tank Regiment RIA
- 38 Medium Regiment
- 40 Field Regiment (Asal Uttar)
- 61 Medium Regiment (has served periods with 17th Mountain Division)
- 63 Field Regiment
- 70 Regiment (medium or field)(SAVIOURS)
- 76 Field Regiment
- 80 Field Regiment
- 92 Medium Regiment
- 99 Field Regiment (Sylhet)
- 163 Medium Regiment
- 168 Field Regiment
- 169 Field Regiment (Longewala)
- 175 Regiment (Field or Medium)
- 195 Field Regiment (Banwat)
- 200 Medium Regiment
- 216 Medium Regiment
- 223 Field Regiment
- 228 Medium Regiment
- 255 Field Regiment
- 286 Medium Regiment
- 299 Field Regiment
- 307 Medium Regiment
- 311 Field Regiment
- 315 Field Regiment<sup>[1]</sup>
- 821 Light Regiment Bombers
- 3342 msl regt
- 110 Medium Regiment
- [279 SATA Bty]
- 91 Field Regiment
- 122 SATA Regiment
- 125 SATA Regiment (Sawa Lakh) India's First Regiment to be equipped with the Heron UAVs
- 161 field regiment

## Engineer Groups

These were formed from the Sapper and Miner Groups of each of the erstwhile presidencies of British India. They are listed below in order of precedence:

- Madras Sappers
- Bengal Sappers
- Bombay Sappers

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# Indian Army Regiments

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## Arunachal Scouts

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Arunachal Scouts	
Active	2009 – Present
Country	 India
Branch	Army
Type	Infantry
Size	4 Battalions

**Arunachal Scouts** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. It was raised to defend India's border with Tibet in Arunachal Pradesh. It specializes in mountain warfare.

### History

The proposal to raise the *Arunachal Scouts* along the lines of the illustrious Ladakh Scouts for defending the border with China was proposed by former Indian Army chief and Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General J. J. Singh, in 2008. The proposal was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2009.<sup>[1]</sup>

The first battalion was raised in 2010.<sup>[2]</sup>

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# Brigade of the Guards

Brigade of the Guards	
Regimental Insignia of the Brigade of the Guards	
<b>Active</b>	1949 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Allegiance</b>	Indian Army
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Foot Guards
<b>Role</b>	Mechanized Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Kamptee, Maharashtra.
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Pahla Hamesha Pahla (First Always First)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Garud Ka Hun Bol Pyare (I am from the Guards, Say O my friend)</i>
<b>Theatre Honours</b>	Jammu & Kashmir - 1947-48, Rajasthan - 1965, Punjab - 1965, East Pakistan - 1971 and Jammu & Kashmir - 1971
<b>Decorations</b>	2 Param Vir Chakras, 2 Ashoka Chakras, 1 Padma Bhushan, 8 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 6 Maha Vir Chakras, 4 Kirti Chakras, 46 Vir Chakras, 18 Shaurya Chakras, 77 Sena Medals, 10 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 3 Yudh Seva Medals, 16 Vishisht Seva Medals, 45 Mention-in-Despatches, 151 COAS's Commendation Cards and 79 GOC-in-C's Commendation Cards
<b>Battle honours</b>	Akhaura, Burki, Gadra Road, Hilli, Naushera, Gurais, Shingo River Valley, Sylhet and Ganga Sagar
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	Garuda - A mythological eagle king.
<b>Hackle</b>	Red over Yellow

**Brigade of The Guards** is a regiment of the Indian Army. It is the first "All India" mixed "All Class" Composition Infantry Regiment of the Army where troops from all parts of India serve together in various battalions of the Regiment. The Guards Brigade was raised to implement the Government's policy of encouraging Army recruitment from classes and regions which had been under-represented in the forces. In the new regiment, called The Guards Brigade, the old system of class composition was replaced with recruitment open to all regions, castes, creeds, and sections of society. Three of the Army's oldest and most distinguished battalions—2nd Battalion of the 2nd Punjab Regiment, 1st Battalion of the Indian Grenadiers Regiment and 1st Battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles were converted as Guards battalions in 1949. Later, they were joined by the 1st Battalion of the 7th Rajput Regiment. It is the only regiment of Foot Guards in the Indian Army. Though the Brigade of The Guards is only 50 years old, its constituent battalions go back as far as 225 years and between them share 93 Battle Honours earned around the globe.<sup>[1]</sup> The President of India is the Honorary Colonel-in-Chief and the Chief of Army Staff is the Colonel-in-Chief of The Guards. The Guards Regimental Centre is at Kamptee in Maharashtra.

## History and Raising

Prior to the raising of the Guards, Indian Army infantry regiments derived their name from region, religion or sub caste. Also there was a message with its formation that country comes ahead of everything else including religion and caste. The Regiment was formed in 1949 as the first mixed class Indian regiment by Field Marshal KM Cariappa OBE to be raised after independence of India. The first battalions of the Brigade of Guards were formed by taking the oldest battalions of some of the infantry regiments of the Indian Army. At the moment Brigade of the Guards consists of 19 battalions, the youngest being the 19th battalion. In the eighties, the Indian Army began to increase the number of mechanized infantry battalions on its order of battle. As part of this program, the battalions of the Brigade of Guards were eventually mechanized infantry.

## Operations

### 1971 Liberation War

In the 1971 war, the Brigade of the Guards participated in actions on both the Eastern and the Western fronts. The 14th Guards earned their first PVC ( Param Veer Chakra) through L/Nk Albert Ekka of Bravo Company, for heroism in the Gangasagar theatre: he single-handedly turned the tide against Pakistani defenders, who were firing from LMG and MMG from the top of a building, putting the entire attacking party in risk.

### UN Operations and Counter-Insurgency Operations

The Brigade of the Guards has also taken part in UN peace keeping operations in Gaza and Angola. The regiment has also been used in counter-insurgency operations in India.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Current Strength

The regiment currently consists of a total of 19 battalions.<sup>[2]</sup> The majority of these operate as mechanised infantry, with four operating in the reconnaissance and support role, in support of the border force. Of these, one is equipped as an anti-tank missile battalion and three proudly remain as infantry. Today, the regiment is one of three in the Indian Army that is made up of men from the different castes and regions of India. The regiment also has two Territorial Army battalions attached to it.

- 1st Battalion (Mechanized)(former 2 Punjab)
  - 2nd Battalion (Mechanized)(former 1 Grenadiers)
  - 3rd Battalion (Mechanized)(former 104th Wellesley's Rifles)
  - 4th Battalion (Mechanized)(former 1 Rajput)
  - 5th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 6th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 7th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 8th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 9th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 10th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 11th Battalion (Mechanized)
  - 12th Battalion (Mechanized)(Recce & Sup - Tracked)
  - 13th Battalion
  - 14th Battalion (Mechanised)
  - 15th Battalion (Recce & Sup)
  - 16th Battalion (Recce & Sup)
  - 17th Battalion (ATGM)
-

- 18th Battalion (Mechanised)
- 19th Battalion (Recce & Sup)
- 117th Battalion (Territorial Army)
- 125th Battalion (Territorial Army)

## Gallantry Awards

2 Param Vir Chakras, 2 Ashoka Chakras, 1 Padma Bhushan, 8 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 6 Maha Vir Chakras, 4 Kirti Chakras, 46 Vir Chakras, 18 Shaurya Chakras, 77 Sena Medals, 10 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 3 Yudh Seva Medals, 16 Vishisht Seva Medals, 45 Mention-in-Despatches, 151 COAS's Commendation Cards and 79 GOC-in-C's Commendation Cards

## Battle honours

### Pre-Independence

Delhi 1803; Egypt 1876-1917; British East Africa 1878; Afghanistan 1878-80; Kandahar 1880; Burma 1891 ; China 1900; East Africa 1914-1916; Mesopotamia 1914- 1918, Egypt 1915, Gallipoli 1915, France and Flanders 1915, Kutal Amarah 1915; Palestine 1916-1918; Tigris 1916; Macedonia 1918; Afghanistan 1919; Donbaik 1943; Italy 1943-1945; Burma 1945; J&K 1947-1948; Selinghar; Carnatic; Mysore; Ava; Pegu; Suez Canal; Nels, Krithia; Laos; Aden; Point-551; Kanhaw; Naushera; Mangalore; Hyderabad; Gaza; Megiodo; Nablus; Curais; Seringapatnam; Beurabone; Punjab; Mooltan; Persia; Reshire; Khooshab; Central India; Basra; Shaiba; Ctesiphon; Defence of Kut-AI-Amarnath; Sidi Barrani; Keren; Cassino; Castele Hill; Leswarree; Deig; Bharatpore; Khelat; Mahrakpore; Chilianwallah; Goojerat and Punjab.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Post-Independence

Akhaura, Burki, Gadra Road, Hilli, Naushera, Gurais, Shingo Rivel Valley, Sylhet and Ganga Sagar.<sup>[3]</sup>

## References

- [1] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-guards.htm>  
[2] Brigade of the Guards at Bharat Rakshak (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Army/Regiments/Guards.html>)  
[3] [http://indianarmy.nic.in/infantry/inf\\_gds.html](http://indianarmy.nic.in/infantry/inf_gds.html)

## External links

- BR Monitor Issue on the Brigade of the Guards (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MONITOR/ISSUE3-1/jagan.html>)

# Gurkha regiment

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**Gurkha regiment** may refer to:

- Brigade of Gurkhas, Nepalese soldiers who serve Within the British Army
  - Gorkha regiments (India), various infantry regiments in the Indian Army, recruited primarily from Nepal
  - Gurkha
-

# Bihar Regiment

The Bihar Regiment	
Regimental Insignia of the Bihar Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1941–Present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Danapur, Bihar
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Karam Hi Dharam (Work is Worship)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Jai Bajrangbali</i>
<b>Mascot</b>	Sidhu-Kanhu
<b>Engagements</b>	Burma Campaign, World War II Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 Kargil War
<b>Decorations</b>	3 Ashoka Chakras, 1 Maha Vir Chakra
<b>Battle honours</b>	<b>Post Independence</b> Haka , Gangaw and Batalik. Theatre honours= <b>Akhaura</b>
Commanders	
<b>Current commander</b>	Lieutenant General A.K. Bakhshi.
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Lieutenant General Sant Singh, Lt Gen K S Mann, Lt Gen A R K Reddy, Lt Gen O S Lohchab, Lt Gen Balbir Singh, Brig SC Johar, Col Umesh Kumar Bojha.
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	The Ashoka Lion

**The Bihar Regiment** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The regiment can trace its origins back to the British Indian Army. The Bihar Regiment was formed in 1941 by regularising the 11th (Territorial) Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, and raising new battalions.

## History

The Bihar Regiment traces its origins to the sepoy battalions raised in 1757 by Lord Clive of the British East India Company at Patna.<sup>[1]</sup> These were formed by the men from the Bhojpur region of Bihar. Their success in combat impressed Mir Kasim, who began raising units trained in western combat techniques. Bihari battalions raised by Mir Kasim defeated the British in some engagements. The Bihari, or poorbia/purviah soldier thereafter made up the backbone of the Bengal Infantry of the British Colonial Army.

The Bihari was not only an excellent soldier, but he was also quick to learn and apply the tactical drills with initiative. He was disciplined when led by good officers, but capable of hostility when his beliefs and customs were

disregarded. The Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the introduction of greased cartridges, was led by Bihari troops, who preferred being blown by the guns to losing their faith. Biharis thereafter were not encouraged to enter military service by the British until after the Great War (World War I).

The Bihar Regiment was formed in 1941 during World War II by regularising the 11th (Territorial) Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment as 1 Bihar. The 2nd Battalion was raised in 1942.

The newly raised 1 Bihar saw action in the Burma Campaign, winning battle honours for gallant actions at Haka and Gangaw. 2 Bihar formed part of Operation Zipper for the reoccupation of British Malaya.

Thereafter, both battalions participated in the undeclared war in the Kashmir Valley during 1948-49.

During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, 7 Bihar captured Bedori, paving the way for the capture of Haji Pir Pass.

By the start of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Regiment had expanded to 11 battalions. Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Tenth and Eleventh Battalions participated in operations in the eastern sector. 10 Bihar was conferred the Theatre Honour 'East Pakistan' for the capture of Akhaura. On 15 December 1971, a seaborne expedition was launched at Cox's Bazar to prevent Pakistani troops from escaping into Burma. 11 Bihar formed part of this amphibious task force. In the Western theatre of the war, 3 Bihar captured Wanjal.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the Spring of 1999, Pakistani soldiers posing as Kashmiri militants crossed the L.O.C. in Kargil and entered Indian Territory. Operation Vijay was launched by Indian Army to flush out the intruders. More than 10,000 soldiers and officers of the Bihar Regiment were deployed to the war front. In a well planned operation in the Batalik Sector, soldiers of 1 Bihar, in a fierce fight with the Pakistan Army, captured Point 4268 and Jubar Ridge on night 06/7 July 1999. 7 July 1999 is a red letter day in the history of the regiment, as the Jawans of the Bihar Regiment pushed back intruders from Jubar Hills and point 4268 in Kuker Thang area in Batalik sector.

Units of the regiment have also served in UN Peacekeeping operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).

## Composition and Recruitment

About half of Bihar Regiment recruits are reported to consist of Adivasis. The word 'Adivasi' means 'original inhabitants' in Sanskrit, and therefore the term refers to the aboriginal people of India.

Some 67.76 million or 8.08 per cent of the population of India have been designated as 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs) - generally referred to as Adivasis. The term 'STs' indicates those communities specified by the President of India under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. 'Geographical isolation, distinctive culture, primitivity [sic], shyness and economic backwardness [sic]' are some of the criteria considered. Adivasis in India share many of the characteristics of other indigenous peoples of the world. However, a vital distinction of the Adivasis of the Indian subcontinent is their opposition to the caste system. As punishment for Adivasi resistance to British rule, "The Criminal Tribes Act" was passed by the British Government in 1871 arbitrarily stigmatizing groups such as the Adivasis (who were perceived as most hostile to British interests) as congenital criminals.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Engagements

Deployments of units of the Bihar Regiment:

- Burma Campaign, World War II
- Operation Zipper, World War II
- Indo-Pakistan War of 1947
- Indo-Pakistan War of 1965
- Indo-Pakistan War of 1971
- UNOSOM
- Kargil War
- MONUC

## Units

Regimental Battalions:

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion
- 4 RR Battalion
- 24 RR Battalion
- 47 RR Battalion

## Distinctions

### Battle Honours

- Haka, Burma Campaign, World War II
- Gangaw, Burma Campaign, World War II
- Akhaura, East Pakistan, Indo-Pakistan War of 1971
- Jubar Ridge, Kargil War

### Gallantry Awards

#### Vir Chakra

- Major Mariappan Saravanan (Posthumous), 1 Bihar, Kargil War<sup>[1]</sup>

\*Capt K K Panicker, 10 Bihar

#### Ashoka Chakra

- Lieutenant Colonel Harsh Uday Singh Gaur, 10 Bihar, Baramulla district, 1994<sup>[4]</sup>
- Lieutenant Colonel Shanti Swarup Rana (Posthumous), 3 Bihar, Kupwara district, 1997<sup>[5]</sup>
- Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan (Posthumous), 7 Bihar (on deputation to NSG), Operation Black Tornado

## References

- [1] [http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTemp1P2C\\_1.aspx?MnId=jT2Y4PlXXeo=&ParentID=VE+Qz4Hs3Yo=](http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTemp1P2C_1.aspx?MnId=jT2Y4PlXXeo=&ParentID=VE+Qz4Hs3Yo=)
- [2] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-bihar.htm>
- [3] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-bihar.htm>
- [4] <http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTemp1P2C.aspx?MnId=hbdlQR6d+1s=&ParentID=cLrJBFZSBSk=>
- [5] "Lt Col Shanti Swarup Rana" (<http://www.indianmartyr.com/2011/11/lt-col-shanti-swarup-rana.html>). Indian Martyr. . Retrieved 2011-12-29.



# Parachute Regiment

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**Parachute Regiment** may refer to:

- Parachute Regiment (United Kingdom)
- Parachute Regiment (India)
- Paratroopers Brigade (IDF), Israel
- 44 Parachute Regiment (South Africa)
- 1st Airborne Brigade (Japan)
- Brigada de Fusileros Paracaidistas of the Mexican Air Force
- 501st Infantry Regiment (United States)
- 504th Infantry Regiment (United States)
- 509th Infantry Regiment (United States)
- 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (United States)
- 1st Parachute Division (Germany) and 2nd Parachute Division (Germany) or the Fallschirmjäger (Nazi Germany) parachute units

# Punjab Regiment

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**Punjab Regiment** may refer to the following existing units:

- Punjab Regiment (India)
- Punjab Regiment (Pakistan)

From 1922 to 1947, the British Indian Army included 6 numbered Punjab Regiments:


- 1st Punjab Regiment
- 2nd Punjab Regiment
- 8th Punjab Regiment
- 14th Punjab Regiment
- 15th Punjab Regiment
- 16th Punjab Regiment

From 1903 to 1922, the British Indian Army included 28 numbered Punjabi Regiments:

- 19th Punjabis
  - 20th Duke of Cambridge's Own Punjabis - (20th Duke of Cambridge's Own Infantry (Brownlow's Punjabis) in 1904)
  - 21st Punjabis
  - 22nd Punjabis
  - 24th Punjabis
  - 25th Punjabis
  - 26th Punjabis
  - 27th Punjabis
  - 28th Punjabis
  - 29th Punjabis
  - 30th Punjabis
  - 31st Punjabis
  - 33rd Punjabis
  - 46th Punjabis
  - 62nd Punjabis
-

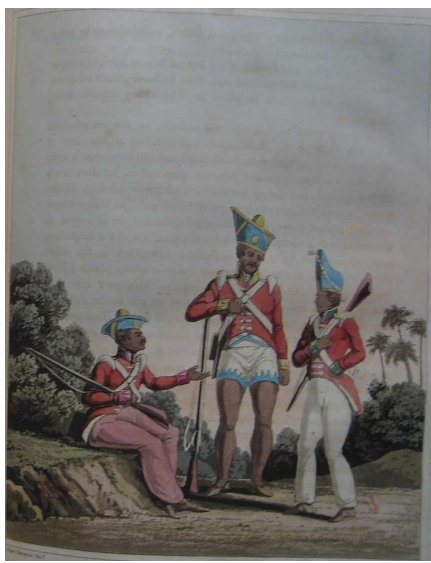
- 66th Punjabis
  - 67th Punjabis
  - 69th Punjabis
  - 72nd Punjabis
  - 74th Punjabis
  - 76th Punjabis
  - 82nd Punjabis
  - 84th Punjabis
  - 87th Punjabis
  - 89th Punjabis
  - 90th Punjabis
  - 91st Punjabis (Light Infantry)
  - 92nd Punjabis
-

# The Madras Regiment

The Madras Regiment	
Regimental Insignia of the Madras Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1758 – Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Wellington, Tamil Nadu
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Swadharme Nidhanam Shreyaha (It is a glory to die doing one's duty)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Veera Madrassi, Adi Kollu , Adi Kollu(Brave Madrassi, Hit and Kill, Hit and Kill!)</i>
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Ashoka Chakra, 5 Maha Vir Chakras, 36 Vir Chakras, 304 Sena Medals, 1 Nao Sena Medal, 15 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 9 Kirti Chakras, 27 Shaurya Chakras, 1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 2 Yudh Seva Medals, 23 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 47 Vishisht Seva Medals, 151 Mention-in-Despatches, 512 COAS's Commendation Cards, 271 GOC-in-C's Commendation Cards, 3 Jeevan Rakshak Padak and 7 COAS Unit Citations, 7 GOC Unit Citation
<b>Battle honours</b>	<b>Post Independence</b> Tithwal, Punch, Kalidhar, Maharajke, Siramani and Basantar River.
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	An Assaye Elephant posed upon a shield with two crossed swords

**The Madras Regiment** is the oldest regiment in the Indian army formed in the 1750s. The regiment has been through many campaigns with both the British Indian Army and the Indian Army.

## History



Seapoys of the Bombay, Bengal, and Madras Armies

The Madras Regiment was initially formed as the Madras European Regiment in the 1660s by the East India Company as the second company established in India. However, it was formed as a battalion in 1748 under the command of Major Stringer Lawrence. The battalion was involved in all the battles against the French forces in India.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Lawrence structured the regiment to include two battalions, one European and one *Sepoy* (Indian). Both battalions were similar in structure and included seven companies each, with each company including three officers in command and seventy privates. Also part of the companies were four sergeants and corporals and three drummers.<sup>[3]</sup>

The oldest Battalion in the Madras Regiment (and the Indian Army) was the 9th Battalion, formerly known as the Nair Brigade (*Nayar Pattalam*- "Nair Army"). This militia was raised in 1704 at Padmanabhapuram as body guards for the Maharajah of Travancore, and were active in the Battle of Colachel in defeating the Dutch forces.

The army was made up of soldiers from Nair warrior clans, however after the 1940s, non-Nairs were permitted to join. The "Nayar Army" became incorporated into the Indian Army on April 1951.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1748 Major Stringer Lawrence, a veteran of action in Spain, Flanders and the Highlands, was hired by the East India Company to take charge of the defense of Cuddalore. He laid the foundations of what was to become the Indian Army. Training the levies to become a militia, the Madras Levies were formed into "companies" and trained to become a disciplined and fine fighting force. In 1758 Lawrence raised the Madras Regiment, forming the several Companies of Madras Levies into two battalions. 2 Madras was raised in 1776 as 15 Carnatic Infantry at Thanjavur [and underwent many nomenclature changes thereafter]. The regiment has been through many campaigns with both the British Indian Army and the Indian Army. Many well-known British officers have commanded this regiment, Robert Clive is one among them. This regiment has fought the Carnatic wars, which were fought in South India. The elephant crest symbolizes its gallantry in the Battle of Assaye under Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington.<sup>[5]</sup>

There after the British annexed the Indian sub-continent, largely with the help of the Madras Regiment sepoy. The coming of the British rule and merging the Presidency armies into a British Indian Army led the erstwhile regiments to be reorganised. After conquest of India, main threat to British was from Russia. So recruitment was re-oriented towards north Indians of Punjab and Nepal. This resulted in the British reducing the strength of the madras regiment since the southern borders were relatively peaceful.

After many years, this regiment was re-raised with fresh recruits and a draft of troops from the Madras Sappers during the World War II. The newly reborn Madras Regiment performed very creditably during the War in the Burma campaign.

## Post Independence



The Madras Regiment marching during the Republic Day Parade

After independence, the infantry battalions of the Travancore "Nair Pattalam", Cochin and Mysore State forces were amalgamated into the Madras Regiment. Post-independence saw the consolidation of the Regiment and re-affirmation of the versatility and valour of the South Indian troops when the battalions of the Regiment fought fierce battles during the 1947–48 Jammu & Kashmir Operations, the 1962 Sino-Indian Conflict and the Indo-Pak Wars of 1965 and 1971. The deployment of as many as seven battalions of the Regiment in Sri Lanka during Operation Pawan in 1987–89 was a testimony to the faith the Indian Army reposed in the loyalty, dedication and valour of the troops of the Madras Regiment. Two battalions (3 and 25 Madras) of

the Regiment have been awarded unit citations by the COAS in recognition of their splendid service in combating insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab. Further two battalions served the nation, in the world's highest battlefield in the subzero temperatures of Siachen Glacier. The Madras Regiment has taken part in various humanitarian aid operations in India. It has also taken part in various UN Peacekeeping missions.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Current Strength

Currently the regiment has a strength of 20 battalions. The 1st Battalion was converted to the Mechanised Infantry Regiment. Current battalions of the Madras regiment are:

- 2nd Battalion (old 75th Carnatic Infantry)
- 3rd Battalion (old 79th Carnatic Infantry)
- 4th Battalion (old 83rd Wallajahabad Light Infantry)
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion (Shandaar Saat chamkte rahe )
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion Madras Regiment (former State Forces unit)
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion (old Territorial Battalion)(Double First)
- 12th Battalion (old Territorial Battalion)
- 16th Battalion (former State Forces unit)
- 17th Battalion (former State Forces unit)
- 18th Battalion (former Mysore Infantry)
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 25th Battalion (old garrison battalion)
- 26th Battalion (old garrison battalion)
- 27th Battalion (old garrison battalion)
- 28th Battalion (old coastal defence battalion)



Troops from the Madras Regiment taking part in UN peacekeeping operations in Congo

## Regimental Tribute

*Let those who come after, see to it that these names be not forgotten,  
For they who at the call of duty, left all that was dear to them,  
Endured hardships, faced dangers, and finally passed out of sight of men,  
In the path of duty and self-sacrifice, Giving their lives that we might live in freedom.*


## References

- [1] C.K. Cooke, ed. (1901). *Empire Review* ([http://books.google.com/books?id=HxIoAAAAYAAJ&dq=Madras Regiment"+ "Stringer Lawrence"&lr=&as\\_brr=3&client=firefox-a&pg=PA621#v=onepage&q=Madras Regiment"+ "Stringer Lawrence"&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=HxIoAAAAYAAJ&dq=Madras+Regiment+Stringer+Lawrence)). **2**. Macmillan and co. limited.. pp. 621. OCLC 50083309. .
- [2] Harrington, Peter (1994). *Plassey 1757 : Clive of India's finest hour* ([http://books.google.com/books?id=zPRxsYVnmfKc&lpg=PA40&dq=Madras Regiment"+ "Stringer Lawrence"&lr=&as\\_brr=3&client=firefox-a&pg=PA40#v=onepage&q=Madras Regiment"+ "Stringer Lawrence"&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=zPRxsYVnmfKc&lpg=PA40&dq=Madras+Regiment+Stringer+Lawrence)). Osprey. pp. 40. ISBN 978-1-85532-352-0. OCLC 31969501. .
- [3] Addington, Larry H. (1990). *The patterns of war through the eighteenth century* ([http://books.google.com/books?id=4CBEesvW2okC&lpg=PA132&dq=Madras Regiment"&lr=&as\\_brr=3&client=firefox-a&pg=PA132#v=onepage&q=Madras Regiment"&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=4CBEesvW2okC&lpg=PA132&dq=Madras+Regiment)). Indiana University Press. pp. 132. ISBN 978-0-253-20551-3. OCLC 19672195. .
- [4] <http://books.google.co.in/books?id=xLrTzZd0j1kC&pg=PA59>
- [5] <http://books.google.co.in/books?id=xLrTzZd0j1kC&pg=PA47>
- [6] <http://madrasregiment.org/index.htm>

## External links

- Madras Regiment on Bharat-Rakshak (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/101-Madras.html>)
- Army Official Website (<http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=c7MBFUWHB9c=&ParentID=AldCRQ5Aep4=&flag=pIndian>)

# The Grenadiers

The Grenadiers	
The regimental insignia of The Grenadiers	
<b>Active</b>	1778 – present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	 Indian Army
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Sarvada Shaktishali (Ever Powerful)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	Sarvada Shaktishali !
<b>March</b>	The Indian Army Regular March
<b>Mascot</b>	The Lion
<b>Engagements</b>	Second Anglo-Afghan War Third Burmese War Third Anglo-Afghan War First World War Second World War 1965 Indo-Pak War 1971 Indo-Pak War 1999 Kargil War
<b>Decorations</b>	3 Param Vir Chakras, 2 Ashoka Chakras, 7 Maha Vir Chakras, 4 Kirti Chakras, 2 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 2 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 2 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 33 Vir Chakras, 16 Shaurya Chakras, 3 Yudh Seva Medals, 71 Sena Medals and 27 Vishisht Seva Medals
<b>Battle honours</b>	<b>Post Independence</b> Gurez, Assal Uttar, Jarpal and Chakra
Commanders	
<b>Colonel of the Regiment</b>	Major General Zameerud-din Shah
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A brass grenade bearing the White Horse of Hanover. The insignia is worn on the uniform with a white hackle.

**The Grenadiers** are an infantry regiment of the Indian Army, formerly part of the Bombay Army and later the pre-independence Indian Army, when the regiment was known as the 4th Bombay Grenadiers. It has distinguished itself during the two world wars and also since the Independence of India. The regiment has won many battle honours and gallantry awards, with three Param Vir Chakra awardees in three different conflicts.

## Early history

The oldest grenadier regiment of the armies in the Commonwealth belongs to the Indian Army. The concept of 'Grenadiers' evolved from the practice of selecting the bravest and strongest men for the most dangerous tasks in combat. The Grenadiers have the longest unbroken record of existence in the Indian Army.<sup>[1]</sup>

The history of the Indian Grenadiers is linked to the troops recruited for the Army of the Bombay Presidency. The very first mention of a grenadier company hails back to 1684, when a little army of English troops, which had taken possession of the island of Bombay and comprising three companies of Europeans and local Christians, had a grenadier company, but nothing was heard about this unit subsequently. In 1710, the Bombay Army consisted of five companies of "Europeans, topasses (Indian christians), and coffrees (Kaffirs or African slaves)" of which the first company was a European grenadier company. This company was merged into the Bombay European Regiment, which was later disbanded. In 1757, Robert Clive had raised the 1st Regiment of the Bengal Native Infantry of which two companies were grenadier companies, however, no regiments of grenadiers were formed from the Bengal Army until a battalion was formed in 1779.

In 1759, as a response to French manoeuvring in South India, the strength of the Bombay Army was enhanced, and the first company of sepoy grenadiers was raised with the best of Bombay sepoys "paying a regard to those having families on the island". It had only native officers and all sepoys wore red coats faced with blue. Later on, an adjutant was appointed to the corps.

Later the Bombay Army comprised a number of sepoy battalions, each having one or two grenadier companies. These were clubbed together as a composite battalion comprising the grenadier companies of the Bombay sepoy battalions, and they won the famous battle of Talegaon in 1778. So impressive was the performance of this composite battalion that the Bombay Presidency ordered the permanent raising of a grenadier battalion which duly took place on 12 March 1779, thirty-six years before the first time that a British battalion was given the honour of calling itself "grenadiers". The Governor General of Bombay made an Order dated 12 November 1779, according to which the grenadier companies of the following regiments combined to form the very first Grenadier Regiment in the world, namely "The Grenadier Battalion, First Regiment of Infantry" :

- 1st Sepoy Battalion
  - 2nd Sepoy Battalion
  - 3rd Sepoy Battalion
  - 4th Sepoy Battalion
  - 5th Sepoy Battalion
  - 6th Sepoy Battalion
  - Marine Battalion (two companies of grenadiers)
-



## Battle honours

### Battle Honour (Pre Independence)

Prior to Indian independence, the Regiment had won many battle honours as part of the British Indian Army. These battle honours include:

#### Pre-World War I

- Mangalore - 1784
- Mysore - 1786
- Srirangapatnam - 1799
- Egypt - 1802
- Koregaum - 1818
- BENI-BOO-ALI - 1821
- Kirkee - 1827
- Hyderabad - 1831-43
- Meeane - 1843
- Punjab - 1848
- Central India - 1858
- Abyssinia - 1868
- Afghanistan - 1878-1880
- Kandahar 1880
- Afghanistan 1878–80
- Burma 1885–87
- Somaliland (Dharatol) - 1901–04

#### World War I

- East Africa 1914–16
- Egypt - 1916-17
- Baghdad - 1917
- KUT-AL-AMARA - 1917
- Gaza - 1918
- Sharquat
- Megiddo
- Nablus - 1918
- Palestine 1917–18
- Mesopotamia - 1915-18
- Aden - 1914-19
- Afghanistan 1919
- Tigris - 1919



Bombay Grenadier in British service, 1910.

## World War II

- Kohima - 1944
- Kalewa - 1944
- Naga Village - 1944
- Fort Dufferin - 1945
- Pwabwe - 1945
- Capture of Meiktila - 1945
- Defense of Meiktila - 1945
- Pegu - 1945
- Taungtha - 1945

## Battle Honour (Post Independence)

Since 1947, the Regiment has won the following battle honours as part of the Indian Army:

- Gurais - 1948
- Asal Uttar - 1965
- Jarpal - 1971
- Chakra - 1971
- Tololing & Tiger Hill (Kargil War) - 1999

*This list is incomplete.*

## Decorations

The Grenadiers have the unique and distinct honour of having the most number of Param Vir Chakras, India's highest medal for gallantry, among all the Indian Army's Infantry Regiments.. Of note also, is the fact that prior to independence, British officers serving with The Grenadiers won four Victoria Crosses.<sup>[2]</sup> Members of the Regiment have also received a number of other decorations prior to independence, including the Indian Order of Merit

## Victoria Cross

- Captain George Murray Rolland, 22 April 1903, Daratoleh, Somaliland

## Indian Order of Merit

- Subedar Rahim Khan, Palestine (against Turkey), April 1918.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Param Vir Chakra Recipients

- Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid, **4th Grenadiers** - 1965.
- Major Hoshiar Singh, **3rd Grenadiers** - 1971.
- Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, **18th Grenadiers** - 1999.

## References & notes

[1] Sharma, p. 75

[2] Sharma, p. 69

[3] Sharma, p. 73



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## External links

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  - bharat-rakshak.com - The Grenadiers (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/102-Grenadiers.html>)
  - Indian Grenadiers Regiment (<http://www.grenadiers.info/indian/>)
  - The Bombay Grenadiers (<http://www.regiments.org/regiments/southasia/inf/1922-04.htm>)
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# Maratha Light Infantry

Maratha Light Infantry	
 <p>The Regimental Insignia of the Maratha Light Infantry</p>	
<b>Active</b>	1768-Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Light Infantry
<b>Nickname</b>	Ganpats
<b>March</b>	<i>Singarh</i>
<b>Decorations</b>	2 Victoria Cross, 4 Ashok Chakra, 10 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 4 Maha Vir Chakra, 4 Kirti Chakra, 1 ACCL II, 14 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 34 Vir Chakra, 18 Shaurya Chakra, 4 ACCL III, 4 Yudh Seva Medals, 107 Sena Medals, 1 Shaurya Chakra & Bar, 23 Vishisht Seva Medals, 1 Padma Bushan, 1 Arjun Award and 3 Unit Citations.
<b>Battle honours</b>	Naushera, Jhangar, Burki, Hussainiwala, Jamalpur, Burj and Suadih.
Commanders	
<b>Colonel of the Regiment</b>	Lt General Narendra Singh
Insignia	
<b>Identification symbol</b>	A bugle and cords with a pair of crossed swords and a shield.

The **Maratha Light Infantry (MLI)**; also the ***Ganpats***) is a light infantry regiment of the Indian Army. It was formed as the **103rd Maharattas** in 1768, making it the most senior light infantry regiment of the Army.

The regiment recruits from the Indian states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and others. Their regimental centre has been Belgaum, Karnataka, since 1922.<sup>[1]</sup> The battle cry of Maratha Light Infantry is, *Bol Shri Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai!* ("Cry Victory to Emperor Shivaji!") in tribute to the Maratha emperor Shivaji.

## History

### Pre-independence

The Marathas were a potent force in 16th, 17th, and 18th century India. Their military qualities were brilliantly optimised in their historic campaigns against the Mughals and the English, under the leadership of the Emperor Shivaji and succeeding Maratha rulers. Maratha armies, comprising both infantry and light cavalry, with the Maratha naval power had dominated the military scene in India for three centuries. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment, known as *Jangi Paltan* ("the fighting unit"), was raised in August 1768 as the 2nd Battalion Bombay Sepoys, to protect the British East India Company's possessions on the islands of Bombay.

The second battalion known as *Kali Panchwin* followed the next year as the 3rd Battalion Bombay Sepoys. These two battalions were at the forefront of virtually every major engagement fought on the west coast from Surat to Cannanore during the last quarter of the 18th century. Prominent amongst these were the historic battles of Seedaseer and Seringapatam where in the words of Lord Wellesley their *conduct and success were seldom equaled and never surpassed*.

The turn of the 19th century was witness to the expansion of the Regimental group with the raising of 3rd Battalion as 2nd Battalion the 5th (Travancore) Regiment of the Bombay Native Infantry in 1797. The Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre was raised in March 1800 as the 2nd Battalion the 7th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry; the 4th Battalion in April 1800 as the 2nd Battalion the 8th Regiment Bombay Infantry and the 5th battalion from the Bombay Fencibles as the 1st Battalion the 9th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry in December 1800.

In the second half of the 19th century, the battalions fought in various campaigns from the Middle East to China. In recognition of the gallant conduct of its detachments at the siege of Kahun and the defence of Dadar, in Baluch territory during the First Anglo-Afghan War in 1841, the *Kali Panchwin* was created Light Infantry. Later, this honour was also bestowed on the 3rd and 10th Regiments of the Bombay Infantry (present 1st Maratha Light Infantry and 2nd Para respectively) for their gallantry in Sir Robert Napier's Abyssinian Campaign of 1867-1868. The Regiment assumed the title 5th Mahratta Light Infantry in 1922.

Three Marhatta battalions the 103rd, 114th and 117th distinguished themselves during the First World War (1914–1918) in the long drawn-out Mesopotamia campaign. The 117th Marhattas (present 5 Maratha LI) was made into a Royal battalion for its conspicuously distinctive service during its campaign in Mesopotamia and particularly in the events leading to the capitulation after the bitter 146 day siege at Kut-el-Amara. The 114th Marhattas (present Regimental Centre) was awarded 28 gallantry awards for their performance in the battle of Sharquat, the highest earned by any unit in a single action. The other Maratha battalions the 105th Mahratta Light Infantry, 110th Maratha Light Infantry, 116th Mahrattas (present 2 Maratha LI, 2 PARA and 4 Maratha LI) also acquitted themselves in Palestine and Mesopotamia. After their return to India, these six battalions of the Bombay Army were merged to form a single group and designated as the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry in 1922. The redesignation also saw 114th Mahratta become the training battalion for the group and subsequently the Regimental Centre.

The Second World War saw the Marathas in the forefront in almost every theatre of operations from the jungles of South East Asia, to the deserts of North Africa, and the mountains and rivers of Italy. The war also saw the expansion of the regiment when thirteen new war service battalions were raised. Most of these were later demobilised after the war, whilst two were converted into artillery regiments. During the war Naik Yeshwant Ghadge and Sepoy Namdeo Jadhav<sup>[2]</sup> were decorated with the Victoria Cross in the Italian campaign, while 130 other decorations were awarded to the MLI.

Apart from being the first light Infantry of the Indian Army, Kali Panchwin was the first Indian Battalion to participate in World War II, first to have lost its Commanding Officer in action (Colonel Chitty at the Battle of Jebel Hamrin, 1917), the first Maratha Battalion to participate in a United Nations mission. Later, it earned the Indian Army's first Ashoka Chakra in the North-East.

## Post-independence

Indian independence saw the Regiment reverting back to the original five battalions, with the 3rd Maratha Light Infantry converting to the airborne role and becoming 2nd Bn, the Parachute Regiment in April 1952. With the integration of the erstwhile princely states, the 19th, 20th, 22nd battalions were amalgamated, from the state forces of Kolhapur, Baroda, and Hyderabad, with the Regiment. The expansion of the Indian Army to meet the omnipresent threat to its borders has seen the Regiment grow to its present total of 18 battalions and two TA battalions whilst the period also saw the conversion of 21st Bn into 21 Para (Special Forces) and the 115 Infantry battalion (TA) being grouped under the Mahar Regiment.



14 MARATHA LI organizing firing for NCC Cadets of Gwalior Division

Since Independence, battalions of the Maratha LI have taken part in every armed conflict – Jammu and Kashmir operations in 1947-1948, entry into Junagarh, Hyderabad Campaign (1948), Invasion of Goa, Daman and Diu, the Sino-Indian War, conflicts with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 against the Chinese on the Sikkim watershed in 1956, the operations in Sri Lanka, the ongoing operations in the Siachen glacier and in counter insurgency operations.

The Ashoka Chakra awarded to Captain Eric Tucker (2 Maratha LI) and Colonel N. J. Nair (16 Maratha LI), Col Vasanth Venugopal (9 Maratha LI), Lt Navdeep Singh (15 Maratha LI), the five Mahavir Chakras and the numerous other war and peace time gallantry awards bear testimony to the front-line leadership and courage of the Regiment's Officers, JCOs and NCOs.

Gen J.J. Singh (9th and 5th) became the first Chief Of Army Staff from the Maratha Light Infantry in Feb 2005. Lt Col KS Gill, SM\*\* from the 1st Battalion, Maratha Light Infantry (the Jangi Paltan) is holding the coveted appointment of Adjutant, National Defence Academy. Brigadier C K Ramesh is the Commandant and Col Tushar S Bhakay is the Deputy Commandant of the Regimental Centre located at Belgaum and Lt General Narendra Singh, currently Deputy Chief of Army Staff is the Colonel of the Regiment.

## Battalions

- 1st Battalion (Jangi Paltan) (ex 103rd Mahratta LI)
- 2nd Battalion (Kali Panchwin) (ex 105th Mahratta LI)(Ashoka Chakra battalion)
- 3rd Battalion (ex 8th Maratha LI)
- 4th Battalion (ex 116th Mahrattas)
- 5th Battalion (ex 117th Mahrattas)(Royals)
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion (Nashak Nauvi)
- 11th Battalion (Akramak Akra) (ex Territorial battalion)
- 12th Battalion (ex Territorial battalion)
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion (Ashoka Chakra Battalion)
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion (ex State Forces unit)
- 21st Battalion

- 22nd Battalion (HYDERABADIS) (ex State Forces unit)
- 23rd Battalion
- 24th Battalion (Raised at Kohlapur, it is the youngest battalion)
- 26th Battalion
- 42nd Battalion<sup>[3]</sup>
- 101 Infantry Battalion (TA)
- 109 Infantry Battalion (TA)
- 17 RR Maratha LI (Stormy Seventeen)
- 27 RR Maratha LI
- 41 RR Maratha LI
- 56 RR Maratha LI

## Affiliations

Two special forces battalions of the Parachute Regiment (2 PARA (SF) & 21 PARA (SF)), one mechanized battalion (10 Bn, Mechanised Infantry Regt), two Arty regiments (34 Medium Regiment & 36 Medium Regiment) one guided missile destroyer (INS Mumbai) and a fighter squadron (20 Sqn Air force) are also affiliated to the regiment.

## Bastille day celebrations in Paris

On the occasion of 221st Storming of the Bastille day celebrations, the Maratha Light Infantry lead the parade at the Parisian boulevard of Champs Elysses on 14 July 2009. The military parade which was opened with a detachment of 400 soldiers from the three defence services of India, who were attired in ceremonial uniforms. The Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was the guest of honour of the ceremony, an invitee of the French President<sup>[4]</sup>

## Notes

- [1] <http://books.google.com/books?id=n40BAAAAMAAJ&q=%22+maratha+light+infantry%22+Belgaum+1922+centre&dq=%22+maratha+light+infantry%22+Belgaum+1922+centre&hl=en&sa=X&ei=EwB6T4iHNabi0QHauaHCDQ&ved=0CDQQ6AEwAA>
- [2] Kay, Robin (1967). *Italy Volume II : From Cassino to Trieste*. New Zealand: War History Branch, Department Of Internal Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand.
- [3] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-maratha.htm>
- [4] . "L'Inde a défilé sur les Champs-Élysées" (<http://www.leparisien.fr/politique/l-inde-a-defile-sur-les-champs-elysees-14-07-2009-579912.php>) (in French). Le Parisien. 2009, 14 July. . Retrieved 2009, 16 July.


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# Rajputana Rifles

The Rajputana Rifles	
The Rajputana Rifles Insignia	
<b>Active</b>	10 January 1775 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 India (1947-present)
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Infantry Regiment
<b>Role</b>	Regiment
<b>Size</b>	19 battalions
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Veer Bhogya Vasundhara</i> "The Brave Shall Inherit the Earth"
<b>Battle honours</b>	Poonch, Charwa, Basantar, and Myanamati

The **Rajputana Rifles** is the most senior rifle regiment of the Indian Army. It was originally raised in 1921 as part of the British Indian Army, when six previously existing regiments were amalgamated together to form six battalions of the **6th Rajputana Rifles**. In 1945 the numeral designation was dropped from the title and in 1947 the regiment was transferred to the newly independent Indian Army. Since independence, the regiment has been involved in a number of conflicts against Pakistan, as well as contributing to the Custodian Force (India) in Korea under the aegis of the United Nations in 1953-54 and to the UN Mission to the Congo in 1962.

## The Name

The name **Rajputana Rifles** is derived from the *Rajput* a Hindu clan and Hindi word *Rajputana* which was the old name of Rajasthan. It is based on the Sanskrit word *Rajaputra* meaning son of a king. Rajputana (rāj'pŭtā'nə), historic region, NW India; roughly coextensive with the modern Indian state of Rajasthan. The name means "land of the Rajputs." Rajput tribal power rose here between the 7th and 13th cent., and the princes resisted the early Muslim incursions, which began in the 11th cent. Rajput power reached its peak in the early 16th cent., but the area fell to the Mughals when Akbar captured the fort of Chitor in 1568. From their seat at Ajmer the Mughals ruled Rajputana until the early 18th cent. The Marathas held feudatories in the region from c.1750 to 1818, when it passed to Great Britain. Under the British, Rajputana included more than 20 princely states, notably Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Ajmer. The internal autonomy of many of the states was guaranteed. Most of these states were incorporated into Rajasthan after India gained independence in 1947.

Region of northwestern India that now comprises Rajasthan state and small sections of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The Aravalli Range crosses the southern part of the region from northeast to southwest. The northwestern part is largely the Thar desert, but to the southeast the land is extremely fertile. The Rajput princely states came under British protection by treaties in the early 19th century; most of the area was formed into Rajasthan state in 1948.



## Lineage

The regiment's origins lie in the 18th century when the East India Company (HEIC) recruited Rajputs to protect its operations. The impressive performance of French local units which were composed of local recruits mixed with French officers, helped the HEIC to decide that it needed to do something similar. In January 1775, it raised its first local infantry units which included the 5th Battalion, Bombay Sepoys, which is considered to be the oldest rifle regiment of the Indian Army.<sup>[1]</sup> The 5th Battalion was successively redesignated as 9th Battalion Bombay Sepoys in 1778; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry in 1796; 4th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry in 1824, and then 4th Regiment Native Infantry (Rifle Corps) in 1881.<sup>[2]</sup> It thus became the first Rifle Regiment of the British Indian Army.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1899 the Battalion was once more renamed as 4th Regiment (1st Battalion Rifle Corps) Bombay Infantry and again in 1901 as 4th Bombay Rifles.<sup>[2]</sup>

In Kitchener's 1903 reorganisation of the Indian Army, 4th Bombay Rifles became 104th Wellesley's Rifles, to commemorate the fact that the regiment had been commanded in 1800 by Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington).<sup>[3]</sup> In the further re-organisation in 1921, six regiments were brought together to form six battalions of the 6th Rajputana Rifles Regiment:

- 1st Battalion - 104th Wellesley's Rifles
- 2nd Battalion - 120th Rajputana Infantry
- 3rd Battalion - 122nd Rajputana Infantry (God's Own)
- 4th Battalion - 123rd Outram's Rifles
- 5th Battalion - 125th Napier's Rifles
- 10th (Training) Battalion - 13th Rajputs (The Shekhawati Regiment).<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1945 the regiments of the British Indian Army dropped the numeral in their titles and so the Rajputanas assumed their current name. In 1947 the regiment was allocated to India and the newly formed Indian Army when the sub-continent became independent from the British Empire. In 1949, the 1st Battalion was elevated to the status of guards, becoming 3rd Battalion, Brigade of the Guards.



A painting depicting members of the Rajputana Rifles, of all ranks and uniforms. circa. 1911

## History

In 1817 the 4th Battalion met the Marathas at the Battle of Khadki. The defence earned the regiment the battle honor of "Khadki". In 1856–57 the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions were together in the Persian theatre of operations. In 1856 Captain J. A. Wood of the 2nd Battalion (then the 20th Bombay Native Infantry) was awarded the Victoria Cross for storming Reshire Fort.<sup>[5]</sup> This was the first Victoria Cross to be won in an Indian unit.<sup>[6]</sup> In the same battle Subedar Major Mohammed Sharief and Subedar Peer Bhatt were recommended for the Victoria Cross but were turned down as at that time the medal category was not open to Indians.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

In 1878–1880, during the Second Afghan War, the 1st Battalion marched 145 miles in 5 days from Quetta to Kandahar and laid siege to the city. In 1900–1902, the 3rd Battalion was part of a force used to contain the Boxer rebellion in China.

The First World War saw the regiment fight in battlefields from France to Palestine. The 5th Battalion was in all theatres of the war and participated in General Allenby's march to recapture Jerusalem. In this march the units got the better of their German and Turkish opponents.

During World War II the regiment was expanded to thirteen battalions and served in the Middle East, Burma and Malaya.<sup>[9]</sup> The 4th Battalion had the distinction of earning two Victoria Crosses during this conflict.<sup>[10]</sup>


Over the course of its existence, members of the regiment have received 6 Victoria Crosses, 1 Ashok Chakra, 1 Padma Bushan, 11 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Maha Vir Chakras, 8 Kirti Chakras, 11 Ati Vishisht Seva

Medals, 1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 41 Vir Chakras, 25 Shaurya Chakras, 112 Sena Medals (including Bar), 36 Vishisht Seva Medals, 2 Yudh Seva Medals, 85 Mention-in-Despatches and 55 Arjun Awards.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Units

- 2nd Battalion (formerly 120th Rajputana Infantry)
- 3rd Battalion (formerly 122nd Rajputana Infantry <sup>[11]</sup>)
- 4th Battalion (formerly 123rd Outram's Rifles)
- 5th Battalion (formerly 125th Napier's Rifles)
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion (formerly 31st Rajputana Rifles)
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion (former State Forces unit or Imperial Service Troops)
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion
- 28th Battalion<sup>[12]</sup>

## Alliances

-  United Kingdom - The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment; 5th Bn

## The Rajputana Rifles Regimental Museum

The Rajputana Museum is located in the heart of the city in Delhi in the Rajputana Rifles Center. The museum covers the rich history of the oldest regiment in the most modern fashion. The museum is around 7000 Sq ft in size and covers the history of the regiment from its inception. The museum is designed to narrate the story of the regiment from its beginning till now. The museum by far is the best army museum in India. The museum exhibits weapons uniforms and narrates the history through large format images and audio visual film. The museum is designed and conceived by Delhi based design studio Holistic design <sup>[13]</sup> which specializes in designing museums and exhibitions.


## References

- [1] Sharma 1990, p. 97. and <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/104-Raj-Rif.html>
- [2] Britishempire.co.uk - 104th Wellesley's Rifles (<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/indianinfantry/104thwellesleys.htm>)
- [3] Mackenzie 1951, p. 25.
- [4] Sharma 1990, pp. 104–105.
- [5] Sharma 1990, pp. 97–98.
- [6] Mackenzie 1951, p. 131.
- [7] Sharma 1990, p. 98.
- [8] Until 1911, the Indian Order of Merit was the highest gallantry award that Indian soldiers were eligible for. After 1911, the Victoria Cross was extended to all soldiers of the British Empire.
- [9] Sharma 1990, pp. 106–109.
- [10] Sharma 1990, p. 106.
- [11] [http://122nd\\_Rajputana\\_Infantry\\_\(God%27s\\_Own\)](http://122nd_Rajputana_Infantry_(God%27s_Own))
- [12] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-rajpudana.htm>
- [13] <http://www.holisticdesign.in/2010/07/rajputana-rifles-regimental-museum-design/>

## External links

- Rajputana Rifles on globalsecurity.org (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-rajpudana.htm>)
  - Rajputana Rifles - L. N. Subramaniam (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MONITOR/ISSUE5-1/subra.html>)
  - (<http://www.holisticdesign.in/2010/07/rajputana-rifles-regimental-museum-design/>)
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# Rajput Regiment

The Rajput Regiment	
The Rajput Regiment Insignia	
<b>Active</b>	1778 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Size</b>	20 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Fategarh, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Sarvatra Vijay (Victory Everywhere)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Bol Bajrang Bali Ki Jai (Victory to Lord Hanuman)</i>
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Param Vir Chakra, 1 Ashoka Chakra, 5 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 7 Maha Vir Chakras, 12 Kirti Chakras, 5 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 58 Vir Chakras, 20 Shaurya Chakras 4 Yudh Seva Medals, 67 Sena Medals, 19 Vishisht Seva Medals, 1 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal, 1 Padma Shri
<b>Battle honours</b>	<b>Post Independence</b> Naushera, Zoji La, Khinsar, Madhumati River, Belonia, Khansama and Akhaura
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A pair of crossed Katara's (कटार) flanked by 3 Ashoka leaves on either side
<b>Tartan</b>	Rajput <sup>[1]</sup>

**The Rajput Regiment** is a regiment in the Indian Army that is composed primarily of the Rajput clans from India. The British designated the Rajputs as a martial race and subsequently employed large numbers of these warriors in the British Indian Army.

## History

The association of the Rajputs with the British Indian Army started in 1778, when the 3rd Battalion was raised as the 31st Regiment Bengal Native Infantry. Two other battalions the 1st and 2nd were raised in 1798. The 3rd Battalion fought against Hyder Ali and captured Cuddalore. It was after this battle that the crossed daggers (also known as katars) as a badge was granted in recognition of gallantry, this since has been adopted as the badge by the Rajput Regiment. The 1st Battalion fought at the battle of Delhi (1803), which broke the power of the Marathas at the Imperial court. This battalion was in action again at the siege of Bharatpur (1805), of the 400 men who went into the assault at least 50 percent became casualties.

The 1st and 4th Battalions participated in the British campaign against the Gurkhas. All the Rajput Battalions (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and the 5th) fought against the Sikhs in the Sikh Wars. The 5th Battalion captured three Sikh standards at the battle of Gujarat. The 1857 mutiny was mostly confined to the Bengal infantry regiments, during which the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Rajputs were temporarily disarmed. The 1st Battalion was at Saugor and stood firm while guarding the treasury and the arsenal. For its role it was awarded the title of Light Infantry. The Regiment of Lucknow, which later became the 16th Battalion, then the 10th Battalion contributed to the successful defence of the Lucknow Residency. It won two Victoria Crosses and every Sepoy in the regiment was also awarded a medal. The 1st Battalion in 1876 achieved a rare honour by becoming the Queen's Own as well as the Royal regiment.

## The Two World Wars

Most of the Rajput battalions saw action during World War 1. The 1st Battalion fought at the Battle of Dujailah in Mesopotamia, where it was nearly annihilated. The 3rd Battalion fought the Battles of Qurna and Kut-al-Amara against the Turks. In one of the battles the Turks had invaded both the flanks of the 3rd Rajput, during which Jemadar Sital Baksh was severely wounded. Sepoy Jhandu Singh rushed to his rescue, the Jemadar ordered him to leave him behind but the sepoy lifted him on his back and started moving through the marshlands. Soon both the rescuer and the rescued became targets of the Turks and were riddled with bullets. Sepoy Jhandu Singh was awarded a posthumous IOM and Médaille militaire. A large number of other awards and battle honours were won by the Rajputs and at the end of WW1, a total of 37 battle honours were on the colours of the Rajputs, which exceeded that of any other regiment of the Indian Army.

In 1922 the infantry regiments of the British Indian Army were reorganised and all the Rajput regiments (with the exception of 13th (Shekhawati) Rajput Infantry, which became the 10th battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles) were amalgamated to become battalions of the new 7th Rajput Regiment (which in 1947 was renamed the Rajput Regiment) as follows:

- 1st Battalion:

predecessor units:

2nd Battalion, 15th Bengal Native Infantry (1798 - 1857)

31st Bengal Native Infantry (1857 - 1861)

2nd Bengal Native Light Infantry (1861 - 1876)

2nd (The Queen's Own) Bengal Native Light Infantry (1876 - 1897)

2nd (The Queen's Own) Rajput Bengal Light Native Infantry (1897 - 1901)

2nd (The Queen's Own) Rajput Light Infantry (1901 - 1911)

2nd Queen Victoria's Own Rajput Light Infantry (1911 - 1922)

- 2nd Battalion:

predecessor units:

2nd Battalion, 16th Bengal Native Infantry (1798 - 1824)

33rd Bengal Native Infantry (1824 - 1861)

4th Bengal Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry (1861 - 1890)

4th (Prince Albert Victor's) Bengal Infantry (1890 - 1897)

4th (Prince Albert Victor's) Rajput Regiment, Bengal Infantry (1897 - 1901)

4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs (1901 - 1922)

- 3rd Battalion:

predecessor units:

1st Battalion, 24th Bengal Native Infantry (1798 - 1824)

69th Bengal Native Infantry (1824 - 1828)

47th Bengal Native Infantry (1828 - 1861)

7th Bengal Native Infantry (1861 - 1883)

7th (Duke of Connaught's Own) Bengal Native Infantry (1883 - 1893)

7th (Duke of Connaught's Own) Rajput Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry (1893 - 1903)

7th (Duke of Connaught's Own) Rajput Infantry (1903 - 1922)

- 4th Battalion:

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predecessor units:

1st Battalion, 30th Bengal Native Infantry (1798 - 1824)

59th Bengal Native Infantry (1824 - 1861)

8th Bengal Native Infantry (1861 - 1897)

8th (Rajput) Bengal Infantry (1897 - 1901)

8th Rajput Infantry (1901 - 1922)

- 5th Battalion:

predecessor units:

2nd Extra Battalion, Bengal Native Infantry (1825 - 1828)

70th Bengal Native Infantry (1828 - 1861)

11th Bengal Native Infantry (1861 - 1885)

11th Bengal Infantry (1885 - 1897)

11th (Rajput) Bengal Infantry (1897 - 1901)

11th Rajput Infantry (1901 - 1922)

- 10th (Training) Battalion:

predecessor units:

Regiment of Lucknow from loyal elements of the 13th, 48th and 71st Bengal Native Infantry (1857 - 1861)

16th Bengal Native Infantry (1861 - 1864)

16th (The Lucknow) Bengal Native Infantry (1864 - 1885)

16th (The Lucknow) Bengal Infantry (1885 - 1897)

16th (The Lucknow) Rajput Bengal Infantry (1897 - 1901)

16th Rajput Infantry (The Lucknow Regiment) (1901 - 1922)

Also the one class character of most of the infantry regiments were changed and the Rajputs introduced a company each of Punjabi Musalmans and Hindustani Musalmans in each of their battalions.

Between the world wars, the battalions had many postings. In the late 1930s, the 3rd Battalion, styled 3/7 Rajput, was posted to Waziristan in what is now the tribal areas of Pakistan. During that time, they were employed against Afghan insurgents and criminal gangs raiding across the border.

A number of Rajput regiments participated in World War 2:

The 1st Battalion was in the Arakan during the Burma campaign and then took over the defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The 2nd Battalion was also in the Arakan area and a number of actions were fought by it. The capture of Point 551, also called Rajput Hill was the most important. The Japanese holding this feature had turned back repeated attacks by other battalions but the Rajputs carried the day winning an IOM, five MC's and two MM's for this action.

The 3rd Battalion shipped by convoy to Egypt in August and September 1940. Their convoy was attacked several times by Italian bombers operating out of Ethiopia. The Battalion Bren guns were deployed for air defense and on one occasion are believed to have brought down an Italian aircraft. The Battalion was at Suez and Egypt and was sent to defend Cyprus after the German attack on Crete as part of Indian 5th Infantry Division's 161 Indian Infantry Brigade. Here, they were mainly used in an anti-parachute role, supported by elements of Australian armour. Later, they returned to Egypt and participated in fierce fighting around Deir el Shein and Ruweisat Ridge including a particularly difficult offensive on 21/22 July 1942 where they lost many casualties including the CO. Later in the year they participated in the Second Battle of El Alamein.

The 4th was also in the Western Desert Campaign at Sidi Barrani and El Alamein and on its return to India was posted to the Kohima front.

The 5th Battalion was in the Battle of Hong Kong. The action against the invading Japanese was short and swift with heavy casualties to the regiment. The regiment along with the British garrison was forced to surrender and the men became POWs and had to undergo great hardships. 130 men of the 5th Rajput were either beaten or starved to death or just died because lack of medical care. The Japanese wanted Captain M.A. Ansari of 5th Rajput to renounce his allegiance to the British, but he refused. For five months he was subjected to brutal beatings and treatment, as a result of which he could not walk. He was then sent to live with the other ranks instead of the officers. Captain Ansari remained true to the regiment and organised a system for helping escapees. He was again put in jail and tortured but refused to be broken. In the end the Japanese executed him. Captain M.A. Ansari was awarded the George Cross for his heroism.

## **1947-48 Jammu & Kashmir Operations**

At the time of partition in 1947 Punjabi Musalmans who formed up to 50% of the strength in most battalions were transferred to the Pakistan Army. The gaps created by their departure were filled in by Gujars, who came over from the Punjab Regiments which were allotted to Pakistan.

Four Rajput Regiments (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th) participated in the 1947-48 operations in J&K. The 3 Rajput was the first to be inducted. Its original task was for protection of Ramban and Jammu, but it quickly came under 50 Para Brigade for its relief of Jhangar and Kotli. The advance from Jhangar to Kotli took five days, as the column had to clear 47 road blocks. After the relief of Kotli the column returned to Naushera. 1 Rajput was inducted next and it also formed a part of 50 Para Brigade at Naushera. It had its share of fighting in clearing the raiders from some hill features around Naushera. The raiders meanwhile kept heavy pressure on the Naushera Jhangar road and both 1 and 3 Rajputs fought a number of engagements to keep the road open. In December 1947, 4 Rajput were inducted and deployed in the Chammb- Akhnoor area. 2 Rajput came in next and were employed for L of C duties around Jammu.

Aggressive patrolling was done by 1 and 3 Rajputs around Naushera and Kot. On 6 February 1948 a strong patrol was sent out in the area east of Naushera. The patrol was surrounded by an enemy force of approximately 1000 men. Soon a fierce fight started which continued for seven hours. During this time Subedar Gopal Singh's platoon came under heavy pressure. Gopal Singh wounded thrice kept reorganizing his men time and again. At one time Gopal Singh got separated from his platoon and had only three men at his side, one of them was Sepoy Sikdar Singh. When things got tough Subedar Gopal Singh led a bayonet charge during which he was seriously wounded. Sikdar Singh picked him up and carried him back to the main patrol area. Havildar Mahadeo Singh was another hero. He kept on supplying ammunition to the Bren gunners of the platoon, couple of times he walked through heavy enemy fire to get the ammunition through. In one of his attempts he was wounded and fell down, when he scrambled to his feet he was riddled with bullets. In this action the 3 Rajput won 3 VrCs - one each to Subedar Gopal Singh and Sepoy Sikdar Singh and a posthumous one to Havildar Mahadeo Singh.

After the fall of Jhangar, Naushera became the enemy's next objective. Brigadier Mohammad Usman, 50 Para Brigade commander closely watched the situation and drew up defensive plans in which the Rajputs were holding tactical grounds around Naushera. C Company, 1 Rajput was holding the vital Taindhar position, which was vital for the defence of Naushera. Brig. Usman had directed C company to hold this position at any cost in case of an attack. On the early morning hours of 6 February 1948 the enemy attacked the Taindhar position. The enemy was about 1500 strong and consisted mostly of Pathans with some Pakistani servicemen. The enemy attacked in waves of lines of 200-300 men. Six such attacks were launched and there was heavy hand to hand fighting in some posts. Havildar Daya Ram who was then manning the 3-inch mortar detachment realised that the enemy had gotten very close to the defensive positions. He took the secondary charge out of the mortar bombs, elevated the mortars to their maximum limit and fired the bombs. These bombs landed within 30-50 yards of the Rajput defensive positions and caused havoc among the enemy. Some of the enemy switched and attacked Daya Ram's section, but the position held, Daya

Ram was wounded and his bren gunner killed. He picked up the bren gun and started firing at the enemy, for his courage and actions Daya Ram was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.

The left flank of C Company gave an easy approach to the enemy. This sector was defended by Naik Jadu Nath Singh and his section. The enemy after failing in the frontal attacks switched the main effort on this sector. Naik Jadu Nath Singh effectively directed the fire of his bren gun, rifles and grenades. The enemy, however still continued to advance, Jadunath rushed out of his defensive position throwing hand grenades and firing his sten gun, this took the enemy by surprise and he withdrew to regroup. The enemy regrouped and charged again, Naik Jadu Nath Singh again stood firm and charged out. He was wounded this time but the attack failed again. By this time his section had suffered heavy casualties. The enemy attacked again and Jadunath Singh charged out the third time firing his sten gun and hurling grenades. He was hit by two bullets, one in the head and another in the chest and at last fell making the supreme sacrifice. The enemy had lost heart after this and withdrew, leaving behind a large number of dead and wounded. Naik Jadu Nath Singh for his gallantry was awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

## **The 1950s**

In 1950 there was another change among the infantry regiments. On raising of the Brigade of Guards, the 1st Rajput was transferred to them and became 4th Battalion Brigade of Guards. Also at this time Bengalis and Muslims started coming into the regiment. When the princely states were amalgamated with the Indian Union, the Bikaner Sadul Light Infantry and the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry joined the Rajput Regiment and became 19th and 20th Rajput respectively. The Bikaner Sadul Light Infantry traces its origin back to 1464. They fought under the legendary Rana Sanga at the Battle of Kanwa (1527) against Babur. During World War 1, this unit was organized as Camel Corps, called Ganga Risala. It won many gallantry awards including 1 DSO, 1 IOM, 11 IDSMs, 9 MMs and 16 Mentioned-in-Despatches. Jodhpur Sardar Infantry was raised in 1922. During World War 2 it was in Eritrea and then it was part of the American 5th Army when it landed at Salerno in Sept. 1943. Afterwards as part of the 10th Indian Division it operated along the Adriatic coast. During these operations it won 1 DSO, 1 MC, 3 MMs and 17 Mentioned-in-Despatches. 17 Rajputs was in Nagaland during the insurgency operations of 1955 and 1956. It carried forward the high traditions and won seven Kirti Chakras and two Shaurya Chakras.

## **1962 Indo-China War**

Two Rajput battalions witnessed some heavy fighting in NEFA in 1962. The 2nd Rajput under the command of Lt. Col. M.S. Rikh were at Walong in early 1962 and were moved to the banks of the Namka Chu river by October 10 as a part of 7 Infantry Brigade. The brigade was stretched on a twelve mile front along the Namka Chu, with the marching time from one end to the other being five days. The site chosen for their defences was forced upon them by the corps commander, who was working directly with the political authorities instead of the military chain of command. The battalion took up hastily erected defensive positions along the Namka Chu. The battalion was deployed in a trackless wilderness, where no mules could go and no civilian population lived which could help logistically. Lack of winter clothing added to the hardships of the men on these snowy heights. By the time the fighting commenced, the Chinese had occupied all the dominating heights in the area. A massive assault came on the Rajput front and in the fierce fighting that ensued, the battalion repulsed a number of determined attacks. The positions were soon enveloped from both sides and the battalion was cut off. In spite of heavy odds against them the Rajputs did not give in and fought until the end.

The story of gallantry beyond the call of duty was re-enacted in many platoons and companies. At the temporary bridge, Naik Roshan Singh's section clung doggedly to its position till every man was killed. Subedar Dasrath Singh's platoon was reduced to seven men and had exhausted its ammunition in repulsing three Chinese attacks. When the fourth Chinese attack came the Rajputs fixed bayonets and charged. In the ensuing hand to hand fighting four men were killed and the three survivors all seriously wounded were captured. Jemadar Bose's platoon was left with only 10 men after halting three Chinese attacks. He too fixed bayonets and charged. He along with most of his



platoon were killed. For those interested in more details there is an excellent article in the 'Battles' section of Bharat Rakshak on this battle.

Not a single man from B, C or D Companies was awarded any gallantry medal as there was no one left to write the citations because there was no officer or JCO who was not killed or seriously wounded and taken POW. When the CO, Lt. Col. M.S. Rikh was released from the POW camp, he wrote up the citations but GoI and MoD made lame excuses and did not pay any attention to them. There is a memorial erected to those who fought at Namka Chu, which is a rickety tin shed with names still missing from it and names of persons who were not there have been put up. Major B.K. Pant's company of 112 men had 82 killed and wounded. 2 Rajput, out of 513 all ranks in battle, 282 were killed, 81 were wounded and captured. 90 others were taken prisoners when they tried to break out. Only 60 other ranks, mostly from the administrative elements got back.

4 Rajput under Lt. Col. B. Avasthi was in the Sela-Bomdila area and it too had to face heavy odds. There was conflicting views among the senior commanders. The brigade commander wanted to hold Sela, but the divisional commander wanted to fall back. The divisional commander and the corps commander both agreed to withdraw. This led to total chaos during the retreat as the Chinese had bypassed many positions and ambushed parties of the soldiers withdrawing in a number of places. The battalion broke up into a number of parties, one led by Lt. Col. Avasthi was ambushed and he was killed along with 300 men.

## 1965 Indo-Pak War

After the Rann of Kutch affair, Pakistan switched its attempts towards Kargil and in May 1965 it attacked one of the Indian posts there. 4 Rajput as a part of 121 Infantry Brigade were ordered to capture Point 13620 and Black Rock (15000) also known as Kargil heights to remove any threat to the Srinagar-Leh highway. Both posts consisted of three parts and each of these features was held by a platoon plus of the enemy in addition to a section of 3" mortars and MMGs on Point 13620. On 17 May 1965, B Company under Major Baljit Singh Randhawa, infiltrated deep behind the enemy held posts and attacked them. A grim battle was fought and the Rajputs were successful in evicting the enemy. The Rajputs were awarded a MVC to Maj. B.S. Randhawa (posthumous) and 3 VrCs, one each to Captain Ranbir Singh, Sepoy Budh Singh and a posthumous one to Havildar Girghari Lal. Black Rocks was captured by A Company in the second phase of the attack. As an act of goodwill by GOI these posts were handed back to the Pakistanis some weeks later. These were again recaptured by another battalion in August 1965.

In August, 4 Rajput were moved to the Hajipir area and Bisali feature was captured by them on the night of 4/5 September. This assault was carried out in face of heavy MMG, mortar and artillery fire. The Pakistanis launched five counterattacks and all these were beaten back. By this time the Rajputs had nearly exhausted all of their ammunition and with no hope of reinforcements, they had to withdraw to other defensive positions.

6 Rajput were in and around Srinagar dealing with the Pakistani infiltrators. A number of raids and ambushes were systematically carried out by them. After the infiltrator menace had died down, 6 Rajput moved to Ahknur area and came under 191 Infantry Brigade, which in turn was directly under HQ 15 corps. The battalion was supplied with RCL guns but without sights. When asking for the sights they were told to "see through the barrels and engage the Pakistani armour." The battalion held on to a number of forward posts in the area in face of repeated counterattacks and heavy shelling. Some time after the cease fire a Brigadier came around to see the 6 Rajput defences. He asked Naik Nanak Singh, who was in charge of an LMG position as to where his range card was, and how could he fire properly without knowing the primary and secondary arcs. The Naik replied that he would fire from where ever the enemy came. This annoyed the Brigadier and he said that the Naik was not a good NCO. Nanak Singh faced the Brigadier and said, "Sahib, jab goliyan chal rahi theen to dikhai nahin diye. Ab range card poochh rahe ho." (Sir, when the bullets were flying you were not to be seen and now you are asking for the range card!). That ended the matter.

14 and 20 Rajput were at the Phillora-Chawinda front and after the capture of Charwa on the border, 20 Rajput led the advance for the next 10 days. 17 Rajput were in the southern Lahore sector in the Bedian area.

## 1971 Indo-Pak War

Rajput battalions played an active part in liberation of Bangladesh. Starting in West Bengal, near Calcutta and going about in a clockwise direction around Bangladesh the battalions were deployed as follows.

22 Rajput captured Akandabaria and cleared the way to capture Darsana. The Rajputs then led the brigade attack on Kushtia. The Pakistanis had built up the area around Kushtia and they let the Rajputs and the supporting tanks come forward into the area. They then opened up with heavy fire, the leading company of the Rajputs suffered heavy casualties.

16 Rajput participated in the Battle of Hilli and then led the brigade advance to Ghoraghat and on to Rangpur. 21 Rajput (Also Known as Veer Ekkis Rajput) spearheaded the move to Saidpur and fought in the battle of Pachagarh and Khansama during which there was fierce hand to hand fighting. 4 Rajput were in the area Kurigram-Kaligunj-Jaipurhat. 6 Rajput fought in the Sylhet area and led the advance towards Fenchunganj and Kola Bils. Heavy fighting took place at Kola Bils and the battalion suffered 100 casualties, but it obtained the surrender of 22nd Baluch Regiment. The battalion was awarded 1 VrC (posthumous) and 2 SMs for the action at Kola Bils.

18 Rajput were on the Akhaura-Ashuganj axis. Akhaura proved a tough nut to crack, fighting for it took nearly three days. After this the Rajputs rushed forward and captured the Titas bridge intact. They then attacked Ashuganj, which was cleared after a tough fight and moved on to Narsingdi and entered Dacca on the 16th December. 20 Rajput operated in the Belonia bulge and captured Chaudagram and later moved to Chittagong.

On the western front, 20 Rajput (Jodhpur Sardar) were in their elements in the sands of Rajasthan. Covering a distance of 70 km in the first five days of the war the Rajputs reached Chachro. 15 Rajput was in the Fazilka area. It was involved in heavy fighting for the capture of Beriwalla bridge and Ghazi post. It suffered heavy casualties during the attacks. Lance Naik Drigpal Singh received a posthumous MVC for his gallant actions. 14 Rajput saw action in the Khalra sector and 5 and 9 Rajputs were in the Chammb area. 9 Rajput operated in the Ratnu Chak area and carried out a number of raids, they also captured a couple of enemy posts.

## 1980 - Present

Since the 1980s a number of Rajput battalions have been involved in CI operations in the North East, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. 4, 5 and 25 Rajputs formed a part of IPKF in Sri Lanka. In 1980, 18 Rajput transferred to the newly raised Mechanised Infantry Regiment as its 13th battalion. More recently, 27 Rajput were involved in the fighting in the Kargil sector in 1999.

The Rajput Regimental center is in Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh. The regiment nowadays recruits Rajputs, Gujjars, Hindu Bengalis, Ahirs, Muslims, Jats,

Mazhabi & Ramdasias Sikhs and Dogras. A war memorial was erected at Fatehgarh in 1932. It is in the form of a chattri, with its dome resting on six pillars, each representing a battalion at that time and bearing its crest. The regimental motto is Sarvatra Vijaya, which means Victory Everywhere and the war cry is Bajrang Bali Ki Jai.



The Rajput regiment during Republic day parade.

## Portraits of Heroism

The honours and awards tally for the Rajputs is as follows (from Infantry in India):

- Pre-Independence: 1 VC, 1 GC, 10 DSO, 33 MC, 10 IOM, 27 MM and 46 IDSM.
- Post-Independence: 1 PVC, 1 AC, 7 MVC, 12 KC, 58 VrC, 20 SC, 67 SM, 4 YSM.

### Naik Jadunath Singh

**Param Vir Chakra** was awarded to Naik Jadunath Singh, the acting C Company commander. During the thick of the battle he continuously visited the company positions and encouraged the men to fight in the Rajput tradition. The battle of Taindhar was vital for holding Naushera. After this battle, the Indian army consolidated its position and in March 1948 undertook the operation to recapture Jhangar. Both 1 and 3 Rajputs were in the column which captured Jhangar. In September 1948, 4 Rajput were moved to Zoji La as part of the 77 Para Brigade. The Rajputs along with tanks of 7th Cavalry cleared the way through the pass, they then went ahead and retook Dras.

### Major B.K. Pant

Major B. K. Pant, commander 2nd Rajputs, was a fine example in courage displayed by the Indian soldier in the war with China in 1962. His company held fast against three waves of Chinese assaults and had suffered heavy casualties. Pant himself was wounded in the stomach and legs. Yet he continued to lead and inspire his men, exhorting them to fight till the end to the last man. The Chinese sensing that their obstacle in taking 2nd Rajputs lay with Major Pant, brought a volley of machine gun fire on his position killing him instantly. His last words were "Men of the Rajput Regiment, you were born to die for your country. God has selected this small river for which you must die. Stand up and fight like true Rajputs." He died proudly shouting the Rajput battle-cry: "Bajrang Bali ki Jai." The Chinese completely wiped out the two regiments of the Rajputs and the Gorkhas. 2nd Rajputs alone had 282 killed, 81 wounded and captured and 90 unwounded and captured out of their total strength of 513.

## Affiliation

The affiliation between Navy ships and Army regiments was instituted in 1990 when the guided missile destroyer, "INS Rajput", was affiliated to the Rajput Regiment.

## References

- Bharat-Rakshak Monitor issue on the Rajput Regiment <sup>[2]</sup>
- Luscombe, Stephen. "The British Empire: Regiments of the British Indian Army" <sup>[3]</sup>. Retrieved 2007-07-28.



## External links

- Global Security: Rajput Regiment <sup>[4]</sup>
  - BharatRakshak.com <sup>[5]</sup> - Informative site on the Indian Military
  - Indian Armed Forces <sup>[6]</sup> - Indian military's official website
  - Indian Air Force - Official website <sup>[7]</sup>
  - Indian Military Build-up <sup>[8]</sup> TIME.com
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  - [2] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MONITOR/ISSUE3-3/sandhu.html>
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# Jat Regiment

The Jat Regiment	
 <p>The Jat Regiment</p>	
<b>Active</b>	1795 – Present <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Size</b>	18 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Sangathan Va Veerta (Unity And Valour)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Jat Balwan, Jai Bhagwan (The Jat is powerful, Victory to god!)</i>
<b>Anniversaries</b>	and East Pakistan - 1971
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	The Roman numeral nine representing its ninth position in the regimental hierarchy of the Indian Army of the 1920s. The insignia also has a bugle indicating the Light Infantry antecedents of two of its battalions.

The **Jat Regiment** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army and is one of the longest serving and most decorated regiments of the Indian Army.<sup>[2]</sup> The regiment has won 19 battle honours between 1839 to 1947<sup>[3]</sup> and post independence 5 battle honours, Two Ashok Chakras, eight Mahavir Chakras, eight Kirti Chakras, 32 Shaurya Chakras, 39 Vir Chakras and 170 Sena Medals.<sup>[2]</sup>

During its service of over 200 years, the regiment has participated in various actions and operations both in the pre and post-independence India and abroad, including the First and the Second World Wars. Numerous battalions of the Jat regiment fought in the First World War including the 14th Murray's Jat Lancers.<sup>[4]</sup>

## History

### The Jat people



The Jat Regiment Insignia during British India  
(Pre-1947).

Jat people have historically been a part of nearly all successful armies of the Indian feudal states. They put up a vigorous resistance before the Arab invaders. In 836 they were overthrown by Amran and used their arms to vanquish the Meds on the Indus River. In the reign of Abbasid Caliph Mansur (813–33) they broke a rebellion which the Caliph and his successor Mutasim (833–42), the best part of 20 years to quell.

Ibn Khurdabah mentions 'Zutts' as guarding the route between Kirman and Mansura while Ibn Hawqal writes: "Between Mansura and Makran the waters from the Mehran form lakes and the inhabitants of the country are the south Asian races called 'Zutt'. The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang who visited this region in the 7th century. also mentioned Jats. The Persian Command Hurmuz used Jat soldiers against Khalid Bin Walid in the battle of 'salasal' of 634 (12 AH). This was the first time that Jats were captured by the Arabs. The Persian King Yazdjard had also sought the help of the Sind ruler who sent Jat soldiers and elephants which were used against the Arabs in the battle of Qadisia.

According to Tibri, Hazrat Ali had employed Jats to guard Basra treasury during the battle of Jamal. "Jats were the guards of the Baitul Maal at al-Basra during the time of Hazrat Osman and Hazrat Ali." Amir Muawiya had settled them on the Syrian border to fight against the Romans. Harun-ur-Rashid had recruited Jats to reinforce Cilician fortress against Romans.

### British Indian Army History 1795 to 1947

The Regiment claims its origins from the Calcutta Native Militia raised in 1795,<sup>[5]</sup> which later became an infantry battalion of the Bengal Army. The 14th Murray's Jat Lancers were formed in 1857.<sup>[5]</sup> After 1860, there was a substantial increase in the recruitment of Jats in the British Indian Army, however the Class Regiment, The Jats, was initially created as infantry units in 1897 from old battalions of the Bengal Army. In January 1922, at the time of the grouping of the Class Regiments of the Indian Army, the 9th Jat Regiment was formed by bringing under a single regiment, four active and one training battalion.

The Jat people are the descendants of Indo-Scythian Central Asian tribes and Indo-Aryans. In Mughal times, they preserved their independence and power in Delhi.

Hindu Jat society is a republican form of society, epitomized by the Sarv Khap, a body, a council, based at Shoron, district Muzaffarnagar, U.P, India, that united the Jats from Haryana, Punjab to Central India and organized the resistance to the feudal forces and the invaders.

They founded the principalities of Bharatpur, Dholpur, Rajasthan, Gohad(Bhind), Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Haryana and Punjab, Kuchesar(UP) and Bahadurgarh.

Conservative by nature, the Jats rarely marry outside of their ethnic group, and place great pride in their ancestry. Traditionally, it is held that Jats belonging to a particular village are the descendants of the family that founded the village.

The British in their quest for power and domination in India came into conflict with the Hindu Jat people and recorded that they caused them the maximum trouble along with the Jat Sikhs. So impressed were they by the martial qualities of the Jats that they soon started recruiting them in ever-increasing numbers into all branches of the Bengal



Army. The 1st Battalion was raised as the 22nd Bengal Native Infantry in 1803.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were raised in 1817 and 1823 respectively. All three battalions had distinguished records of service including the winning of many honours during World War I. The 1st Battalion in particular served with great distinction in France and Iraq (then Mesopotamia) and was conferred the signal honour of being declared 'Royal' in addition to being made Light Infantry.

War Services of the 9th Jat Regiment by *Lieutenant Colonel W.L. Hailes*, is a historically famous publication detailing the military history of the Jat Regiment and of the Jat people. The publication details the military history & fighting prowess of the Jat Regiment & Jat people from 1893 to 1937.

In the 1922 re-organization these Battalions along with the 18th Musalman Rajput Infantry were grouped together to form the 9th Jat Regiment with its class composition being fixed as 50% Jats from Punjab and Haryana, 25% Punjabi from cis-Satluj States, Gujarat District and Ponchh District of J&K and Musalman Rajputs (Ranghars). World War 2 saw a large expansion in the ranks of the Regiment with a number of new battalions being raised. Owing to the large demands of manpower the Rajputs were supplemented by the addition of Hindustani Hindu Jats from Haryana, UP, MP, Bihar, Rajasthan and the Deccan).



A World War I (1914-1918) Jat Army Officer's Brass Button - from the famous 9th JAT Regiment an elite-fighting Unit of the Jat Regiment

The Regiment saw a great deal of fighting in North Africa, Ethiopia, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, and Java-Sumatra. A large number of gallantry awards were won including a Victoria Cross and two George Crosses. At the end of the war the Regiment, in company with other regiments of the Indian Infantry, dropped the numeral 9 from its title and became simply the Jat Regiment.

## Post Independence

In free India the Jats maintained the high reputation they had created for themselves on the battle-fields of France and Flanders, Libya, Malaya and Burma to name a few. In Jammu and Kashmir 1947-48, the China War 1962, the conflicts with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, and in Sri Lanka and Siachen, they have added to the laurels of the Regiment and the Army. But the actions of 3 Jat under Lt Col (now Brig Retd) Desmond Hayde initially on 1 September and then again on 21-22 September of crossing the Ichhogil Canal and capturing Dograi right up to Batapore-Attocke Awan and knocking on the very doors of Lahore speaks for itself about the battalion's leadership and the bravery of the troops. Recently in the 1999 Kargil conflict five of the Regiment's battalions took part and once again displayed the soldierly qualities that have made the Jats so well known amongst the community of fighting men. The performance of the Regiment's battalions during the UN missions in Korea and Congo has been in keeping with its high standards. Again, it performed very well in the counter-insurgency operations that have kept the Indian Army busy ever since independence. Nowadays, it fights the foreign mercenaries in Kashmir with its traditional martial spirit.



14th Murray's Jat Lancers (*Risaldar Major*) by AC Lovett (1862-1919)

## Battle Cry

The battle cry, adopted in 1955 is, "*Hindi*: जाट बलवान जय भगवान *IAST* :*Jāt Balwān Jai Bhagwān*" meaning "*The Jat is Powerful, Victory Be to God!*"

## Current Strength

Currently the regiment has a strength of 34 battalions.

- 2nd Battalion (former 15th Jat)
- 3rd Battalion (old 10th Jats)
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion (PHILLORA Captors)
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion (former 11th Jat)
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion (former 31st Jat)
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion
- 114 Infantry Battalion (TA) Jat
- 151 Infantry Battalion (TA) Jat



Commemorative stamp on envelope celebrating the Jat Regiment in army uniforms of the regiment, past and present.



## Gallantry Awards

### Battle Honours

#### Pre-1947

Nagpur, Afghanistan (1839) Ghuznee, Ali Masjid, Kandahar (1842) Cabool (1842) Maharajpore, Sobraon, Mooltan, Goojrat, Punjab, China (1858–59) Kandahar (1880) Burma (1885–87), Afghanistan (1879–80) China (1900) La Basse (1914) Festubert (1914–15) Shaiba, Ctesiphon, Khan Baghdadi, Kut al Amara (1915) Neuve Chappelle, France and Flanders (1914–15) Defence of Kut al Amara, Tigris (1916) Mesopotamia (1914–18) North West Frontier (India) (1914–15) (1917) Afghanistan (1919) Razabil, Kampar, Burma (1942–45) Jitra, Kanglatongbi, Malaya (1941–42) Ninshigum, The Muars, North Africa (1940–43)

#### Post-Independence

Rajauri Zoji La Dograi (1965) Phillora (1965) Unit Citations

Citations are given instead of Battle/Theatre Honours when a unit is decorated for Counter Insurgency Operations.

- 4th Battalion Nagaland 1995
- 7th Battalion J&K 1997
- 11th Battalion Operation Rakshak 2011
- 34th Battalion Rashtriya Rifles J&K 1997
- 17th Battalion Operation Vijay 1999
- 16th Battalion Operation Rakshak 2005/2011
- 21st Battalion Operation Rhino 2009

### Victoria Cross Winners

- Jemadar Abdul Hafiz V.C. 9th Jat Regiment, awarded 6 April 1944, Burma.<sup>[6]</sup>
- Risaldar Badlu Singh V.C. 14th Murray's Jat Lancers attached 29th Lancers (*Deccan Horse*). Awarded 23 September 1918, Palestine (Posthumous).<sup>[6][7]</sup>

### Maha Vir Chakra

- Capt. Anuj Nayyar was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra during the Kargil Conflict. He was an officer from the 17th battalion JAT Regt.

Major Asha ram tyagi [3rd BN., JAT REGT.], was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously in 1965 India-Pakistan war, born in Fatehpur, a nearby countryside. He was born in the Zamindar Family of Ch. Sagwa Singh Tyagi and mother Basanti Devi



## Vir Chakra

- Havaldar Shish Ram Gill was awarded the Vir Chakra during the Kargil Conflict. He was from 8th Bn The Jat Regiment.
- Brig Umesh Singh Bawa and Havildar Kumar Singh Sogarwal were awarded the Vir Chakra during the Kargil Conflict. They are from the 17 Jat Regiment.


## References

- [1] Army's Jat Regiment Best Marching Contingent in Republic Day 2007 Parade | India Defence (<http://www.india-defence.com/reports/2849>)
- [2] Army's Jat Regiment Best Marching Contingent in Republic Day 2007 Parade | India Defence (<http://www.india-defence.com/reports/2849>.)
- [3] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MONITOR/ISSUE3-4/bajwa.html> .
- [4] The Times History of the War: The Battlefield of Europe. Woodward & Van Slyke
- [5] The valiant Jat soldier - The Tribute (<http://www.tribuneindia.com/1998/98aug22/saturday/head4.htm>)
- [6] We Were There - Medals and Awards - Victoria Cross Winners ([http://www.wewerethere.defencedynamics.mod.uk/wewerethere\\_old/vcwin.html](http://www.wewerethere.defencedynamics.mod.uk/wewerethere_old/vcwin.html))
- [7] Risaldar Badlu Singh, VC (<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/haynese/india/medals/VC/1BSingh.html>)

## External links

- 6th Jat Light Infantry (<http://www.regiments.org/regiments/southasia/inf/1903-006.htm>)
  - Stamp on Jat Regiment ([http://indiapicks.com/stamps/Forces/1645\\_Jat\\_Regt.htm](http://indiapicks.com/stamps/Forces/1645_Jat_Regt.htm))
  - The Jat Regiment ([http://indiapicks.com/stamps/Forces/1077\\_Jat\\_Regt.htm](http://indiapicks.com/stamps/Forces/1077_Jat_Regt.htm))
  - Jat Regiment on Bharat-Rakshak (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MONITOR/ISSUE3-4/bajwa.html>)
-

# Sikh Regiment

The Sikh Regiment	
The Regimental Insignia of the Sikh Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1 August 1846–present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 battalions
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Nischay Kar Apni Jeet Karon</i> (With determination, I will be triumphant).
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal</i> (Victory belong to those; Who recite the name of God with a true Heart)
<b>Anniversaries</b>	September 12, 1897 (the day of the Battle of Saragarhi) is celebrated as the <i>Regimental Battle Honour Day</i> .
<b>Decorations</b>	21 Indian Order of Merits ,14 Victoria Crosses, 2 Param Vir Chakras, 2 Ashoka Chakras, 14 Maha Vir Chakras, 14 Kirti Chakras, 64 Vir Chakras, 15 Shaurya Chakras, 75 Sena Medals and 25 Vishisht Seva Medals and "Unit Citation" to 8th Battalion for their meritorious and gallant performance during the isolation of Tiger Hill in the Kargil Skirmish
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	Sharp-edged Quoit, or Chakra, which the Khalsa Armies had used in combat. The Chakra rings a lion, symbolic of the name (Singh) every Sikh carries

The **Sikh Regiment** is a 19 battalion strong, infantry regiment of the Indian Army, drawing a bulk of its recruits from the Sikh community. The regiment was officially raised just before the annexation of the Sikh Empire on August 1, 1846, by the British Empire. It is currently one of the highest decorated regiments in the Indian Army and was at one stage one of the highest decorated regiments in the British Empire. The Sikh Regimental Centre is located in Ramgarh Cantonment, 30 km (**unknown operator: u'strong'** mi) from Ranchi, which is the capital of the state of Jharkhand in India. The Centre was earlier located in Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Over its life of more than 100 years in the British Empire, the regiment distinguished itself with loyalty to the crown in various actions and operations both in India and abroad, including frontier operations, internal mutinies, the First and the Second World War. The competence in operations earned the Sikh Regiment and in turn its intended recruitment pool 'the Sikh people' as a martial race and as a result disproportionate vacancies were reserved for Sikhs in military positions. At the height of these recruitment policies Sikhs made up one third of the British Indian Army, despite Sikhs making only less than 2% of India's entire population.

The modern Sikh Regiment traces its roots directly from the 11th Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army. When transferred to the Indian Army like its sister regiments, the numeral prefix (in the case of the Sikh Regiment, 11) was removed and extra battalions were raised, transferred or disbanded to meet army needs. With a humble beginning of two battalions, today the fraternity has grown to a regiment of 19 regular infantry and two reserve battalions strong. Enlisted soldiers are strictly recruited from the Sikh community and trained internally by the regiment, in which they tend to spend most of their careers. While officers are trained externally from either IMA, or NDA and tend to leave the regiment subject to promotion, officers assigned to the Sikh Regiment are drawn from all regions and areas of India. The war cry of regiment, taken from Sikh scriptures is: *Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal'* (*Victory belongs to those; Who recite the name of God with a true heart*)

## Regimental history

### Pre-Independence

The history of the Sikh Regiment ties closely with the Sikh people of the Punjab. Sikhism was created in the state of Punjab and throughout the creation of the religion Punjab was seen as a junction of cultural and religious influence from the Arabic West and the Mathra east, hence the lands of Punjab were wrestled by both spheres of influence either by sublime cultural influence or by force of arms. By the fifth Sikh Guru Arjan Dev, Punjabi culture was recognised as a third juncture and independent Punjabi culture flourished with the new religion, as such Punjabis following Sikhism were targeted as a potential rival of Islamic influence. As followers of Sikhism were targeted for religious beliefs, Sikhs were encouraged to maintain a degree of martial tenants. As Islamic persecution of Sikhs, Hinduism increased, Sikhism became more militant coining the theory "saint-soldier" in which Sikhism maintained its martial tenants. With the dissolution of Sikh Gurus, the Sikhs leaderless were broken into smaller confederacies which were more akin to fighting amongst themselves and only uniting under Dal Khalsa to fight external threats. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a Sikh, unified the confederacies and formed "Khalsa Army". Numerous heroic and valiant battles were fought by the Khalsa Army, including wars with Mughals, Afghan-Sikh wars and Anglo-Sikh wars. The Maharaja's Sikh Empire was annexed by the Second Anglo-Sikh war.



Sikhs in Khalsa army



British India Sikh Soldier

The Sikh Regiment came into existence on August 1, 1846, with the raising of Regiment of Ferozepore Sikhs and Regiment of Ludhiana Sikhs by Captain G. Tebbs and Lieutenant Colonel P. Gordon respectively and were used in great effect in the 1857 Indian Rebellion. The outcomes were extremely beneficial for the Sikhs, as their loyalty and fighting tenacity made them the backbone of recruitment for the British Indian Army, which were previously recruited from South Indian regions. In this campaign the Sikhs were awarded their first two battle honours for operations conducted at the siege of Lucknow and the defence of Arrah. In addition the Sikh Regiment were awarded a one rank seniority over other Indian Sepoys and awarded the authorisation to wear the converted red turban (which is still worn by the regiment today) opposed to the standard blue head dress worn by British Indian Army Units at the time.

### Battle of Saragarhi Piquet

In September 1897, 4 Sikh was deployed in Khanki valley on Samana ridge in North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan. At that time, 4 Sikh was known as XXXVI Sikh of the British Indian Army. The battalion, deployed in two groups, occupied Fort Lockhart with picquets at Dar, Sartope, Sangar, Carg and Saragarhi. Among all the picquets, Saragarhi was the most important, due to its position on the highest point between Fort Lockhart and Gulistan. Twenty one soldiers, under the command of Hav Ishar Singh, held the Saragarhi piquet.

To separate Fort Gulistan and Lockhart, 10000 Orakzai and Afridi Lashkars attacked Saragarhi on September 12, 1897 at daybreak. The attack was initially repelled with the enemy sustaining a loss of over 60 men. Lt. Col J Houghton, the then Commanding Officer, made all efforts to hold Saragarhi. However, the battalion was forced to retreat initially as the enemy repeatedly attacked Saragarhi. The Sikhs did not move back from the fort. One Sepoy took control of the guardroom and shot not less than 20 enemies, before tribesmen set the guardroom on fire and burnt him to death. By about 3 p.m., men and ammunition ran short and the assailants destroyed the battalion post by setting it on fire. The Sikhs killed 450 tribesmen before making the supreme sacrifice.

On receiving the news, the British Parliament interrupted its proceedings and gave standing ovation to the men of Saragarhi. Each hero was awarded an Indian Order of Merit (IOM), the highest award given to an Indian soldier in British Indian Army for valour and sacrifice. Altogether, a record 21 IOMs were awarded that day. The battle of Saragarhi gave the concept of "last man, last round". Now, September 12 is celebrated as "Saragarhi Day" by all the battalions of the elite Sikh Regiment. UNESCO recognises this battle as one among eight battles of the world known for collective bravery.<sup>[1]</sup>

### World Wars

The Sikh Regiment was further used as a unit for the British Empire being used to garrison India internally, protect Indian frontiers (such as the North-West Frontier Province) and to serve in overseas deployments such as operations in Hong Kong. By 1914 Sikh Regiments were deployed as part of the British Indian Army for operations in World War I. The Regiment served in all theatres of operations and earned 28 battle honours.

In both the World Wars 83,005 turban-wearing Sikh soldiers were killed and 109,045 were wounded while fighting across 3 continents.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the years to 1945, 14 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Sikhs, a per capita record given the size of the Sikh Regiments.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2002, the names of all Sikh VC and George Cross winners were inscribed on the pavilion monument of the Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill next to Buckingham Palace, London.

A total of 40 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the Indian soldiers including those who hailed from the present day Pakistan.<sup>[4]</sup>



Sikh soldiers operating heavy artillery. Second World War. Painting by J.S. Khurmi

## Post-Independence

Sikhs make up 5% of all ranks in the Indian Army and 10% of its officers, whilst Sikhs only forming 1.87% of the Indian population, which makes them over 10 times more likely to be a soldier and officer in the Indian Army than the average Indian. The Sikh Regiment is one of the highest decorated regiment of the Indian Army, with 73 Battle Honours, 14 Victoria Crosses, 21 first class Indian Order of Merit (equivalent to the Victoria Cross), 15 Theatre Honours and 5 COAS Unit Citations besides 2 Param Vir Chakras, 14 Maha Vir Chakras, 5 Kirti Chakras, 67 Vir Chakras and 1596 other gallantry awards.

- The highest-ranking General in the history of the Indian Air Force is a Punjabi Sikh Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh
- The only IAF Param vir chakra awardee is Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon



Soldiers of the Sikh Regiment arriving at the Indira Gandhi International Airport dressed in the blue turbans used during UN peacekeeping operations

- Subedar Nand Singh was a VC and MVC recipient.

**General Joginder Jaswant Singh** (born 17 September 1945) was the first Sikh chief of army staff of India. He served as chief of army staff from January 31, 2005, to September 30, 2007. He was named 22nd chief of army staff on November 27, 2004, and took over the role when his predecessor, General N C Viji, retired on 31 January 2005. He was succeeded by General Deepak Kapoor. He is the first Sikh to have led the Indian Army and the 11th chief of army staff from the Western Command based at Chandigarh. His selection was not a surprise, as at the time of his appointment he was the most senior officer in the army after General Viji. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the 9 Maratha Light Infantry on 2 August 1964. Following his retirement, he became governor of the state of Arunachal Pradesh in January 2008.

## Fallen and injured under the British

In the last two World Wars 83,005 Sikh soldiers were killed and 109,045 were wounded while fighting across 3 continents.<sup>[5]</sup>

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## Units

- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 16th Battalion

- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion
- 22nd Battalion
- 124 Infantry Bn Territorial Army (Sikh)
- 152 Infantry Bn Territorial Army (Sikh)
- 157 Infantry Bn Territorial Army (Sikh) (Home and Hearth)

#### Others

- 1st Battalion is now 4th Mechanised Infantry.
- 9th Battalion was disbanded in 1984

## Operation Blue Star

Following Operation Blue Star, some of the recruits at Ramgarh, Bihar mutinied. They shot and killed the Commandant of the Sikh Regimental Center, Brigadier S.C. Puri and wounded some other officers. They then got hold of a number of trucks and started to proceed towards Punjab, but were stopped by army men in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. A part of 9 Sikh which was in the Ganganagar area of Rajasthan also mutinied. This battalion was disbanded on April 1, 1985. Following Operation Blue Star, the then COAS, General Arun S. Vaidya wanted to have more mixed battalions. So he passed an order that single class battalions should begin recruiting other classes as well as their parent class. These mixed battalions came to be known as *Vaidya's Battalions*. The 13 Sikh was raised as Vaidya's battalion with class composition; a company each of Sikhs, Dogras, Garhwalis and South Indians. However these units were reverted to their original class composition later. General Vaidya was later assassinated by Harjinder Singh Jinda and Sukhdev Singh Sukha for the perception of his involvement in Operation Blue Star and failing to rehabilitate mutinied Sikh soldiers.

## Awards and citations

The Museum of the Regimental Centre displays a record of the Sikh Regiment in four halls viz.,

- The Religious/motivational Hall,
- The Hall of Heritage,
- The Regimental Glory Hall
- The Peripheral Gallery.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) made a special instant award of "Unit Citation" to 8th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment for their meritorious and gallant performance in isolation of Tiger Hill, which facilitated the capture of Tiger Hill top and Helmet and India Gate, features to the West of Tiger Hill top, on night 07/8 July 1999, in Dras.

During Operation Vijay 1999 during Indo-Pak Kargil War, the units of the regiment displayed sterling performance marked with exceptional valour and grit in the face of the enemy.

In all, the Regiment has to its credit **1652** gallantry awards and honours including

- 2 Param Vir Chakras
  - Lance Naik Karam Singh in 1948 during Indo-Pakistani War of 1947.
  - Subedar Joginder Singh during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- 14 Maha Vir Chakras (MVC)
- 68 Vir Chakras.
- 2 Ashoka Chakras.
- 14 Victoria Crosses



- 21 Indian Order of Merits: from Battle of Saragarhi

In addition it has also earned:

- 73 battle honours
- 38 theatre honours besides five COAS Unit Citation, including
  - the one bestowed upon 8 Sikh during the 1999 Kargil episode
  - and two "Bravest of the Brave" citations.

## Battle honours and theatre honours

### Battle honours

#### Pre-Independence

- Lucknow 1857-58 1 SIKH
- Defence of Arrah 1857 3 SIKH
- Bihar 1857 3 SIKH
- China 1860-62 2 SIKH
- Ali Masjid 1878 1, 3 SIKH
- Ahmed Khel 1880 2 SIKH
- Afghanistan 1878-79 1 SIKH
- Afghanistan 1878-80 2, 3 SIKH
- Kandhar 1880 2 SIKH
- Saukin Wind 1885 2 SIKH
- Battle of Tofrek 1885 2 SIKH
- Manipur 1891 4 SIKH
- Defence of Chitral 1895 1 SIKH
- Chitral 1895 2 SIKH
- Samana 1897 4 SIKH
- Saragarhi/Gulistan 1897 4 SIKH
- Punjab Frontier 1897 2, 3, 4 & 35 SIKH (SRC)
- Malakand 1897 3 & 35 SIKH (SRC)
- Tirah 1897-98 2 & 4 SIKH

- China 1900 1 SIKH
- North-West Frontier 1908 3 SIKH

#### World War I



Sikh helmet



- La Bassée 1914 2 & 5 SIKH
- St-Julien 1914 2 & 5 SIKH
- Armentières 1914-15 5 SIKH
- Auber 1914 2 & 5 SIKH
- Givens 1914 4 SIKH
- Siege of Tsingtao (China) 1914 4, 5 SIKH
- Neuve Chapelle 1914-15 2, 3 & 5 SIKH
- France and Flanders 1914-15 2 & 5 SIKH
- Suez Canal 1914-15 1 SIKH
- Festubert 1915 2 SIKH
- Tigris 1916 3 & 5 SIKH
- Pyres 1915 2 & 4 SIKH
- Sari Bair 1915 1 SIKH
- Hells 1915 1 SIKH
- Krishna 1915 1 SIKH
- Suva 1915 1 SIKH
- Gallipoli 1915 1 SIKH
- Egypt 1915 1 SIKH
- Mesopotamia 1916-18 1,3 & 4 SIKH
- Sharon 1918 5 SIKH
- Palestine 1918 5 SIKH
- Baghdad 1916-18 5 SIKH
- Siege of Kut 1917 1,3 & 5 SIKH
- Hai 1917 3 & 4 SIKH
- Megiddo 1918 5 SIKH
- Persia 1918 4 SIKH
- Egypt 1918 2 & 3 SIKH
- Sharot 1918 2 SIKH

#### Inter-War years

- North West Frontier(now Khyber Pukhtunkhwa) 1918-19 35 (SRC) & 5 SIKH
- Afghanistan 1919 2 & 35 SIKH (SRC)
- Palestine 1921 35 (SRC) & 5 SIKH

#### Second World War

- Agordat 1940-41 4 SIKH
- Keren 1941 4 SIKH
- First Battle of El Alamein 1940-43 4 SIKH
- Omars 1941 4 SIKH
- Kuantan 1941-42 5 SIKH
- Niyor Kluang 1941-42 5 SIKH
- Mersa Matruh 1941-42 2 SIKH
- Kota Bharu 1942 5 SIKH
- North Arakan 1942-45 1 SIKH
- Buthidaung 1942-45 1 SIKH
- Coriano 1943-45 2 SIKH
- San Mariano 1943-45 2 SIKH
- Poggio San Giovanni, Italy 1943-45 2 SIKH



French postcard depicting the arrival of 15th Sikh Regiment in France during World War I. The postcard reads, "*Gentlemen of India marching to chasten the German hooligans*".



Operation Crusader

- Monte Calvo (Picentini) 1943-45 4 SIKH
- Battle of Imphal, Kangla Tongbi 1944 1 SIKH
- Gothic Line 1943-45 4 SIKH
- Nyaungu Bridgehead 1945 1 SIKH
- Irrawaddy River 1945 1 SIKH
- Shandatgyi 1945 1 SIKH
- Kama 1945 1 SIKH
- Sittang 1945 1 SIKH

#### Post-Independence

- Srinagar 1947 1 SIKH
- Tithwal 1948 1 SIKH

- Raja Picquet 1965 2 SIKH
- Burki 1965 4 SIKH
- Op Hill 1965 7 SIKH
- Siramani 1971 4 SIKH
- Defence of Poonch 1971 6 SIKH
- Purbat Ali 1971 10 SIKH
- Tiger Hill 1999 8 SIKH

#### Theatre honours

##### Pre-Independence

- North Africa 1940-43 2 & 4 SIKH
- Abyssinia 1940-41 4 SIKH
- Iraq 1941 3 SIKH
- North Africa 1941-42 3 SIKH
- Malaya 1941-42 5 SIKH
- Burma 1942-45 1 SIKH
- Italy 1943-45 2 & 4 SIKH
- Greece 1944-45 2 SIKH

##### Post-Independence

- Jammu & Kashmir 1947-48 1,5,7 & 16 SIKH
- Jammu & Kashmir 1965 2,3 & 7 SIKH
- Punjab 1965 4 SIKH
- Sindh 1971 10 SIKH
- Punjab 1971 2 SIKH
- East Pakistan 1971 4 SIKH
- Jammu & Kashmir 1971 5 & 6 SIKH
- Kargil 1999 8 SIKH

##### Others

- The 1st Sikh battalion, in 1979 was the **British Commonwealth's most decorated battalion** (245 pre-independence and 82 post-independence gallantry awards), when it was transformed into the 4th mechanized infantry.<sup>[7]</sup>
- The Sikh regiment is the **highest decorated regiment of the Indian army** as per Defence review annual as on 1995-1996.<sup>[8][9]</sup>




A Sikh soldier with the flag of Nazi Germany after German surrender during World War II

## Plans to raise a UK Sikh regiment

Advanced plans by the British Army to raise a UK Sikh infantry regiment were scrapped due to accusations by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) that such a creation could be viewed as racist or sectarian. The Sikh regiment had many supporters including Prince Charles.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Alliances

-  United Kingdom - The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's Lancashire and Border)

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- Bharat-Rakshak.com: The Sikh Regiment (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/107-Sikh-Regt.html>)
- Sikh Light Infantry (<http://sikhli.info/index.php/history>)

# Sikh Light Infantry

Sikh Light Infantry	
Sikh Light Infantry Regimental Insignia	
<b>Active</b>	23 June 1944-Present (Sikh Light Infantry)
<b>Country</b>	 British India 1850 - 1947  India 1947 - Present
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Elite <sup>[1]</sup> (Line Infantry)
<b>Role</b>	Infantry Airborne Amphibious Warfare Special Forces
<b>Size</b>	18 battalions
<b>Nickname</b>	Sikh LI or SLI
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Deg Teg Fateh</i> (Prosperity in Peace and Victory in War).
<b>Decorations</b>	Post Independence 1947 1 Ashok Chakra, 5 Maha Vir Chakra, 6 Kirti Chakra, 23 Vir Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakra, 82 Sena Medal, 4 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, 8 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 3 Yudh Seva Medal, 17 Vishisht Seva Medal, 49 Mention in Despatches and 122 COAS's Commendation Cards.
<b>Battle honours</b>	Post Independence 1947 OP Hill, Kalidhar, Fatehpur and Parbat Ali.
Insignia	
<b>War Cry Regimental song</b> Gagan damama bajiyo paryo nishane ghao khet jo mandyo surma ab jujhan ko dhao, sura so pehchainye jo lare din ke het purja purja kat mare kabhun na chadde khet.	<i>Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal</i> (Blessed is the one who proclaims the Truth of God)

The **Sikh Light Infantry** previously known as **The Mazabhi and Ramdasia Sikh Regiment** is an elite<sup>[1]</sup> Regiment of the Indian Army. Its name was changed to the **Sikh Light Infantry** in 1944. The Sikh Light Infantry is the successor unit to the Mazhabi Sikh Pioneers 23rd, 32nd and 34th Sikh Pioneers. The Sikh Light Infantry inherited the battle honours, colours and traditions of the Mazhabi Sikh Pioneers on its merging with a few Ramdasia companies in 1941.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Sikh Light Infantry is famous for recruiting Mazhabi Sikh Soldiers; who are famous for their extraordinary courage and tenacity on the battlefield. In its life of nearly one century under the British Raj, the Sikh Light Infantry and its predecessors the 23rd, 32nd and 34th Royal Sikh Pioneers distinguished themselves with loyalty to the British Crown and her Empire in numerous conflicts in and around the Indian Subcontinent including both the First World War and the Second World War. Since India's Independence from Britain in 1947, the regiment has gone from strength to strength and has continued to set exceptional standards. Today, the Sikh Light Infantry has expanded beyond its primary Infantry role and holds an *elite* regimental status.<sup>[1]</sup> Since Independence the Sikh Light Infantry has also established a very versatile reputation, with its soldiers expanding into Airborne, Marine commando Forces and Special Forces roles respectively. The 9th battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry conducts special Amphibious assaults similar in nature to the Royal Marines of the United Kingdom. The 11th battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry has earned the nickname "*Steel Fist*".<sup>[1]</sup> The exploits of the regiment know no bounds and its soldiers are able to engage all varieties of enemy combatants in virtually all environments. The versatility of the Sikh Light Infantry has seen the regiment conduct operations from the Siachen Glacier,<sup>[1]</sup> the highest battlefield in the

world, to Counter-terrorism. The Sikh Light infantry conducts operations as part of the United Nations Emergency Force. The Regimental motto is *Deg Tegh Fateh*, meaning *prosperity in peace and victory in war*. The motto has great significance with the tenth and most martial Sikh guru; Guru Gobind Singh as the Mazhabis are very closely associated with him. The Sikh Light Infantry insignia is a Chakram or Quoit, with a mounted Kirpan. The insignia was designed to honour the Mazhabi Sikh community's Akali Nihang ancestry.

## History

The Sikh Light Infantry comprises the Mazhabi and Ramdasias Sikh soldiers; well known for their dauntless daring, courage, loyalty and tenacity,<sup>[3]</sup> is one of the oldest Regiments of the Army. It traces its origin to the middle of the nineteenth century when the first Mazhabi soldiers were recruited into the British Indian Army. The first Corps of Mazhabi Sikh Pioneers, the fore bearer of the Sikh Light Infantry, was formed in 1850. The British had recognised the great fighting qualities and prowess of these soldiers in the Anglo-Sikh Wars.<sup>[3]</sup> The stubborn and sustained resistance offered by them and their ability to maintain themselves frugally amazed them. The British had admiration for the Mazhabi as they made *capital soldiers*.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Maharaja Ranjit Singh also had a great admiration for their bravery and enlisted the Mazhabis freely into the khalsa army; Which he nurtured into an excellent instrument of war.<sup>[6]</sup> Being afraid, however, to form the Mazhabis into a separate corps, he attached a Mazhabi company to existing battalions.

Soldiering has been a way of life for the Sikhs of Punjab for centuries. After the Indian rebellion of 1857 the Bengal army regiments were replaced by the Punjabis as the major source of manpower for the British Army in India, but their loyalty had to be carefully nurtured. The British made many mistakes, at first failing even to recognize the religious significance of the Sikhs' beards and long hair.<sup>[7]</sup> Performing well in World War I, the 23rd Sikh Pioneers, 32nd Sikh Pioneers and 34th Sikh Pioneers were then disbanded in 1933, a traumatic experience for the community.<sup>[7]</sup> However, the Sikh Pioneers were re-raised for the Second World War, becoming the Mazhabi and Ramdasias Sikh Regiment before being re-named the Sikh Light Infantry in 1944. The reconquest of Burma was essentially an Indian Army campaign. It was here that the Sikh Light Infantry was deployed. The fledgling regiment tasted blood and earned its first battle honours.<sup>[7]</sup> Most of the Sikhs in the Light Infantry consist of Mazhabi, and some Ramdasias Sikhs.



Members of the regiment during the Republic Day parade in Delhi, India

The two homogeneous Sikh regiments are the Sikh Light Infantry and the Sikh Regiment, the former with 18 regular battalions and together totalling 36 battalions that account for a significant proportion of Indian Army's infantry.<sup>[7]</sup>

## The raising

In June 1857 a Regiment of Sikh Pioneers from the Mazhabi Sikh soldiers drawn mainly from the Punjab and the adjacent areas was raised by Lt DC Home, VC. The regular Regiment 15th (Pioneer), was raised at Lahore on September 15, 1857 by Lt RH Shebbeare, VC. After a number of changes this 15th (Pioneer) Regiment came to be known as the 23rd Sikh Pioneers in 1908. (The 32nd Sikh Pioneers followed this). The 23rd and 32nd Regiments gave such an excellent account of themselves, establishing outstanding standards, that it was decided to raise another Regiment of Sikh Pioneers from the 34th Fatehgarh Levy, which had been raised from Mazbhi Sikh Pioneers on March 28, 1887. Thus, the well-known trio of Sikh Pioneers that won fame through their deeds of glory was complete. Lt Gen Sir George Mac Munn, Commended the Regt for their memorable service, he wrote "The Sikh Pioneers were, for three quarters of a century, in the forefront of almost every campaign from the China Wall to the Flanders Rats."<sup>[8]</sup>



Indian soldier

## World War I

During the First World War, the 23rd, 32nd and 34th Sikh Pioneers, which were originally one battalion regiments were developed into three battalions each. Soon these battalions were tramping over the battlefields of Egypt, Europe, Palestine and Mesopotamia leaving indelible imprints wherever they went. Once again a number of Battle Honours - "Egypt 1916-17"; "Gaza"; "Megiddo"; "Sharon"; "Nablus"; "Palestine 1917-18"; and "Aden" emblazoned the glorious record<sup>[3]</sup> of the Sikh Pioneers. There were ten battalions of Sikh Pioneers (including the Training Battalion) when the armistice was declared in 1919.

The 1/34th Sikh Pioneers won the title of "Royal" during the Great War. They made a bronze screen from the driving bands of enemy shells. The unit armourer and blacksmith made this highly burnished screen, proudly displaying the magnificent achievements of the Sikh Pioneers as epitomized in their Battle Honors. The 34th Royal Sikh Pioneers presented this screen to King George V in 1933. It was through the personal intervention of Brig. F.R.L. Goadby (32nd Sikh Pioneers) and Lt Gen. Sir RA Savory, the first Colonel of the Regiment, that Queen Elizabeth II presented the historic screen back to the Regiment on October 4, 1975. The screen was unveiled by Brig AK Chatterjee, VSM, Colonel of the Regiment, at a special Durbar on April 9, 1977. Another remarkable victory was registered on December 21, 1919, when two companies of the 3/34th Sikh Pioneers, alone on a hill top (Black Hill) with no more than a knee-high wall and a few strands of barbed wire in front, gallantly faced and repelled waves of attacks on them by hordes of Mahsuds.<sup>[3]</sup> There was grim hand-to-hand fighting with Capt. B. L. Gupta (he was awarded the Military Cross), the Indian Medical Officer with the Battalion, tending the wounded under constant enemy fire. The Battalion was awarded one DSO, two Military Crosses and a Bar to Military Cross. Twelve Indian Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks received well-merited decorations.

That night General Skeen published a complimentary Column Order announcing that in honor of the gallant action of the 3/34th Sikh Pioneers, a stone from the unfinished Black Hill Picquet be brought to the camp and formed as the base for the pioneer picquet memorial silver Mess trophy. This trophy was presented by the 3/34th on their disbandment in June 1921, to the 1st Battalion of the 34th Royal Sikh Pioneers. When the Sikh Pioneers were disbanded in 1933, the curator of the British War Museum took this famous trophy. It was later given on a permanent loan to the SIKH LI and is housed in the Regimental Museum. As a result of the post-war reorganization of 1923, the battalions of the Sikh Pioneers were in 1929, reduced to a Corps HQ with one battalion from each of the three regiments.



## Disbandment

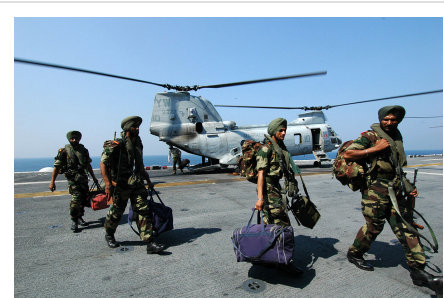
Four years later, February 10, 1933, was a sad day for the Regiment as the Sikh Pioneers were disbanded after 75 years of glorious service.<sup>[3]</sup> This was essentially a measure of economy especially as the Sappers and Miners were to be augmented with an increased number of Mazhabi Companies. A farewell parade was held at Sialkot on December 8, 1932, when the Sikh Pioneers paraded for the last time. Drawn up in line 1,600 strong were the 1st and 2nd Battalions, once the 23rd, 32nd and 34th, with the Corps Headquarters and the massed bands. At the saluting point was a crowd of spectators including many old bemedalled pensioners of the Sikh Pioneer regiments.

## Re-raising for World War II

After suspended animation of a little over eight years, the Sikh Pioneers were re-raised to meet the urgent and mounting demands of World War II. The 1st Battalion was raised at Jullundur on October 1, 1941. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were raised at Peshawar and Sialkot on July 1, 1942 and August 15, 1942 respectively. Recruitment had been opened up to the Ramdasia Sikhs. The re-raised Regiment was known as the "Mazhabi and Ramdasia Sikhs"<sup>[9]</sup> a nomenclature, which was found uninspiring. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, wanted this changed and the Director General of Infantry, Maj Gen (later Lt Gen) Reginald Arthur Savory was tasked to find a suitable name for the Regiment. A committee was constituted at Army HQ, after some alternatives like the *Sikh Fusiliers*, the *Sikh Rifles* and the *Sikh Grenadiers* had been considered and examined, the *Sikh Light Infantry* was chosen. This became prevalent from June 23, 1944. The newly raised 1st Battalion joined the battlefronts of the 14th Army just a little after three years of being raised. The Battalion was flown to Meiktila (Burma) in February 1945 and became part of the 17th Division (*Black Cat*). The soldiers of the Battalion gave ample proof of, their valour, fighting in the jungles of Burma for eight months,<sup>[10]</sup> they won the Battle Honours. "Defence of Meiktila": "Burma 1942-45; "Rangoon Road"; "Pyabwe" and "Sittang 1945". Hav Chamkaur singh 14 sikh li

## Regimental battalions

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion (Marine Commando Force)
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion (*Steel Fist*)<sup>[1]</sup>
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 103 Inf Bn (Territorial Army) Sikh LI
- 158 Inf Bn (Territorial Army) (H&H) Sikh LI
- 163 Inf Bn (Territorial Army) (H&H) Sikh LI



Indian Soldiers assigned to the 9th Battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry (Special Forces) arrive aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4) to participate in Malabar 2006. Malabar 2006 is a multinational exercise between the U.S., Indian and Canadian armed forces to increase interoperability between the three nations and support international security cooperation missions



Indian Soldiers assigned to the 9th Battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry (Special Forces) arrive aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4) to participate in Malabar 2006. Malabar 2006 is a multinational exercise between the U.S., Indian and Canadian armed forces to increase interoperability between the three nations and support international security cooperation missions

## Post-Independence Operational History

### Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 and Post-War operations

On night 5/6 Sep 1965, 1 Sikh L I led the Divisional attack onto Kundanpur through a bulge and surprised the enemy along the Jammu-Sialkot Axis. By first light the battalion in a daring attack had captured Kundanpur, Unche Wains and consolidated the area to open Suchetgarh Sialkot axis. The Battalion was led by Col E W Carvelho. With its young Company Commanders (Capt V K Talwar Capt Rajinder Singh Capt Tirath Singh) the Battalion rushed the well-entrenched enemy positions which were supported by reconnaissance and support elements. Managed to capture number of Jeep mounted R C L GUNS and M M G s. Capt V P Singh was awarded VrC. The C O, the R M O were also awarded and the unit earned 3 Sena Medals and 7 Mention in Despatches. The battalion was awarded Theatre Honour KUNDANPUR for this heroic attack.

On 28 September 1965, 6 Sikh LI was ordered to take two important hill features as a preliminary to clearing a feature on Kalidhar in Jammu and Kashmir which Pakistani forces had, notwithstanding the cease-fire, encroached upon. With utter disregard for personal safety, the Battalion assaulted and captured both the preliminary objectives. The enemy brought down heavy artillery fire and counter-attacks three times. Two of the counter-attacks were beaten off with heavy casualties to the enemy. Due to heavy casualties and pressure of the enemy, our troops had to fall back from one of the two hill features. At this stage the Battalion halted the enemy's advance and stabilized the situation.

In 1965, 5 Sikh Light Infantry was holding picket in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops had occupied a complex of hills called "OP Hill" in Mendar Sector. The complex dominated Road Mender Balnoi, thus isolating one infantry battalion and its administrative base at Balnoi. Earlier attempts to dislodge the enemy having failed, 5 Sikh L.I. was selected and moved to Mendar Sector to take part in a bridge attack on OP Hill. The battalion was new and its officers were very young, only one company commander had more than three years' service. The Commanding Officer decided to personally lead the assault. The approaches to the feature were heavily mined and, anticipating an



Soldiers of the 13th Battalion Sikh Light Infantry arriving at the Indira Gandhi International Airport wearing United Nations blue turbans used during UN peacekeeping operations



attack, the enemy had ensured heavy concentration of artillery fire. The attack was launched before midnight on 2 November 1965. The morale of troops was very high and the Battalion captured its objective in a lightning move from a totally unexpected direction. Having surprised the enemy, the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Sant Singh (now Brig. Sant Singh, MVC, (Bar) (Retd.)) decided to exploit the advantage and ordered the capture of three more objectives which were assigned to another Battalion. The highest feature and the ground of tactical importance for the enemy was captured by midnight. The hills reverberated with the sound of the success signal- "Reveille on the bugle". Subsequently, two more objectives were captured, thus completing four attacks in one night. The highlights of the attacks were the enthusiasm displayed by men and launching of additional attacks without waiting for orders from the Brigade Commander. Throughout, the enemy put up a very tough fight and each bunker had to be cleared after hand-to-hand fighting. For taking most spectacular initiative in launching three additional attacks and for displaying conspicuous gallantry and inspiring leadership, the Commanding Officer (Lt Col. Sant Singh) was awarded Maha Vir Chakra. One more Maha Vir Chakra was awarded to Naik Darshan Singh (Posthumous). Besides these; one Vir Chakra (Posthumous), four Sena Medals (2 Posthumous) and five Commendation Cards were awarded. The Regiment was bestowed Battle Honour "Chuh-i-Nar 1965". In North East sector 5 Sikh L.I. was given a task of making new posts following Sino-India pact in 90s. Showing the valour, courage and great enthusiasm task was completed in most difficult terrain without the help of any engineering regiments. Four Commendation Cards were awarded and front post was named after Sohan Singh (Hony. Capt. Sohan Singh ret'd.)

6 Sikh L.I. operated in Chamb Sector against Pakistani infiltrators and regular forces. The Battalion resisted every attempt by the enemy to infiltrate/raid/lay ambushes in the Battalion Sector. The Battalion withstood worst ever shelling 15 August 1965 and stood out valiantly in their posts on the cease-fire line to the admiration of all troops despite intensive enemy shelling, disruption of communications and increased casualties. The stand of the battalion enabled 191 Brigade Group to reorganize, regroup and take offensive action to reoccupy posts vacated on 15–17 August 1965. 6 Sikh L.I. were ordered to retake lost posts of Maira and Nathan, with one company 3 Mahar and one troop 'C' squadron 20 Lancers under command, reoccupied both posts on 17 August 1965. Vigorous offensive action by all ranks kept the enemy at bay and delayed his offensive till 1 September 1965, by the time he was able to concentrate his armour, infantry, artillery, RCL, and MMG mounted on jeeps and infantry in greater strength to pierce through wide gaps between posts, outnumbered, outshelled, outgunned and threatened own posts on cease-fire line with encirclement and annihilation in details.

On 1 September 1965, the battalions artillery and air support failed, any communication or reinforcement ultimately disintegrated and it was no longer possible to hold out. Devastated but undeterred by Pakistan air force and artillery, Battalion Headquarters with remnants of one company and 'C' squadron 20 Lancers underwent continuous shelling, withdrew before midnight on 1 September 1965 on orders from Headquarters 191 Infantry Brigade Group. The battalion fought with its back against the wall against innumerable odds and stood up well. It was indeed a great satisfaction that the battalion carried out the duty to its best ability. It was this feeling in fact that made the Battalion to quickly absorb reinforcement, re-equip and be operational to take on any task assigned to it culminating in the capture of Trig point 3776 (Kalidhar) on 4 October 1965. In this battle all ranks showed tenacity of purpose, determination, courage, devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice.

On the night of 3 October 1965 the Battalion was given the task of clearing the same objective with the help of a Mahar battalion. In the morning on 4 October 1965, 6 Sikh L.I. secured its objectives in spite of treacherous cliffish terrain, heavy enemy opposition and shelling, the battalion continued to advance up a very steep slope in the face of intensive enemy artillery fire and opposition by Infantry. Despite casualties and strong opposition, our troops continued to press forward and successfully secured three other important features by evening of the same day. The enemy staged three counter-attacks in heavy strength supported by artillery fire but they were all repulsed with heavy casualties.

The Battalion re-organized itself for the next assault on Kalidhar Trig Point 3776 despite heavy casualties and fatigue. The feature was finally cleared of the Pakistani intruders by mid-day on 5 October 1965. In this action the

Battalion displayed remarkable courage, determination and self sacrifice for which one Maha Vir Chakra (Lt Col. PK Nandagopal), two Vir Chakras, four Sena Medals (two posthumous); five Mention in Despatches (three Posthumous) and one COAS's Commendation Card were awarded. The Regiment was also awarded the Battle Honour "Kalidhar 1965"

### **Indo-Pakistani War of 1971**

11 December 1971 is a red letter day in the history of 8 Sikh L.I. Pak Fatehpur post, fortified on all four sides with high bunds, was a virtual fortress with innumerable automatic and anti-tank weapons deployed for its defence. Its diamond-like shape made it equally difficult to tackle from all side, on the night of 11 December the brave men of 8 Sikh Light Infantry discounted all difficulties and rushed forward on to this coveted objective, in the face of deadly small arms fire and devastating artillery shelling. Many a gallant soldier fell but others moved on undaunted. Not before long the enemy was either destroyed or in desperate flight, leaving behind large quantity of arms and ammunition. Apparently, the enemy had not accepted final defeat yet, he continued to plaster this position with accurate artillery and mortar fire from several directions. Two counter-attacks attempted by the previously fleeing soldiers were disorganized and defeated by the 8 Sikh L.I.

In this battle, three officers, one JCO and 32 Ors sacrificed their life and approximately 100 others were wounded. A young battalion, within five years of its raising, had fought its maiden battle in masterly style and had come of age. The number of officers killed, wounded is tribute to the quality of glowing leadership provided by them.

8 Sikh L.I was awarded the Battle Honour "Fathepur" for this heroic action. Medals awarded for the battle include, one Mahavir Chakra, five Vir Chakras (2 posthumous), four Sena Medals (2 posthumous) and two Mention-in-Despatches (Posthumous).

10 Sikh L.I. spearheaded the advance of 85 Infantry Brigade Northward through the Sind Desert along the railway line Munabao-Naya Chor completing all the operational tasks given to it with distinction, right up to the day of cease fire, during the Indo-Pak operations in 1971. Kajlor the first objective, was overrun on 4 December 1971 and the second phase of the attack became redundant as the enemy flew helter-skelter without any loss to our troops. Next day advance was resumed and Khokh-Ropar Railway station saw the enemies blood turn to water with the battle cry of 'Bole so Nihal' the advance coming to a temporary halt at Bhitla as the administrative echelons had failed to negotiate the treacherous sand of the Sind desert.

The advance was maintained along Vasarbha railway station through December 5–7, 1971. By 1700 hrs on December 7, 10 Sikh L.I. reached Parche Jiveri station (now called Bahadur Nagar). The enemy strafed the battalion, wherein Sep. Kulwant Singh was killed while bringing down an enemy Sabre by his LMG fire and was awarded the Sena Medal for this brave deed. The Battalion firmed in on 8 December on approaching Naya Chor enemy defence. The key to the enemy defences was a dominating feature, Parbat Ali. The enemy brought down heavy artillery fire and country attacked twice but were beaten back and decided wisely to withdraw. The battalion firmed in and remained there till last light on 12 December.

10 Sikh L.I. was ordered to capture Village Parche Jiveri (Bahadur Nagar) and on the night of 14 December the battalion launched its attack. The assaulting companies ran into a mine-field and Maj Arora was severally wounded. Seeing the situation Commanding Officer Lt Col. Basant Singh left his post and himself moved up along with his Intelligence Officer, late Capt Bahadur Singh, Vir Chakra. While the Commanding Officer, was inspiring his troops, Capt Bahadur Singh, went up to the Artillery officer's post and continued to direct artillery fire until hit by an enemy bullet in the head, and died on the spot. The attack went in through the minefields and heavy enemy fire. The enemy fled leaving behind 20 dead, two recoilless guns and a Jeep, besides vast quantities of ammunition. The battalion acquitted itself in an exemplary manner throughout this brief war and was awarded Battle Honour "Parbat Ali" and theater honour "Sind 1971". Besides gallantry awards; five Vir Chakra, seven Sena Medals and three Mention-in-Despatches were awarded.

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## IPKF and Sri Lanka

13 Sikh Light Infantry battle at Kokkuvil, Sri Lanka, and the saga of the heroic fight put in by twenty-nine men have embedded themselves into the realms of history without an iota of doubt. The Battalion (less two companies) at Palali air fields in Sri Lanka, was tasked to capture LTTE military headquarters at Jaffna University. At midnight the first Mi-8 helicopter of the 10th Battalion Parachute Regiment, Delta Company, took off for the landing zone, soon followed by the second Mi-8 helicopter. The platoon for Delta company led by late Maj. Birendra Singh, had to face tough resistance landing amidst heavy and accurate enemy machine gun fire. The LTTE had intercepted radio communications allowing them advanced knowledge of the planned raid. The follow-up helicopters which were airborne were ordered to return to Palali, as three of the five helicopters having been hit resulted in no further landing behind the enemy lines in the LTTE strongest foothold. Amidst the confusing situation the remaining members of the Battalion was ordered to advance on vehicles to establish link with the beleaguered platoon of Delta Company. All communication had snapped, the last transmission from late Maj Birendra Singh of 13th Battalion, The Sikh Light Infantry Regiment, stating; "Not to worry, We'll hold on...."


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# Dogra Regiment

The Dogra Regiment	
Regimental Insignia of the Dogra Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1877 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Kartavyam Anvatma (Duty Before Death)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Jawala Mata Ki Jai (Victory to Goddess Jawala)</i>
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Ashoka Chakra, 9 Maha Vir Chakras, 4 Kirti Chakras, 4 Yudh Seva Medals, 36 Vir Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra & Bar, 1 Padma Bhushan, 11 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 5 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 13 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 119 Sena Medals, 21 Vishisht Seva Medals, 188 Mention-in-Despatches and 263 COAS's Commendation Cards.
<b>Battle honours</b>	Jhangar, Rajauri, Uri, Asal Uttar, Haji Pir, Raja Picquet, OP Hill, Siramani, Suadih, Dera Baba Nanak and Chandgram <b>Theatre Honours</b> Jammu & Kashmir - 1948, Punjab - 1965 and Punjab - 1971
Commanders	
<b>Notable commanders</b>	General Nirmal Chander Vij
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	Tiger revered as the mount of Goddess Durga, who is a widely worshipped deity in the Dogra Hills.

The **Dogra Regiment** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army, formerly the 17th Dogra Regiment when part of the British Indian Army.

## History

### Formation

The regiment has the Dogra people from the Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the hill regions of Punjab. The current regiment was formed in 1922 through the amalgamation of three separate regiments of Dogras as the **17th Dogra Regiment**. They were:

- **1st Battalion** - Formerly the 37th (Prince of Wales's Own) Dogras
- **2nd Battalion** - Formerly the 38th Dogras
- **3rd Battalion** - Formerly the 1st Battalion, 41st Dogras
- **10th (Training) Battalion** - Formerly the 2nd Battalion, 41st Dogras

The **41st Dogras** were an infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. They could trace their origins to 1900, when they were raised as the 41st (Dogra) Bengal Infantry. After World War I the Indian government reformed the army moving from single battalion regiments to multi battalion regiments.<sup>[1]</sup> It dropped 17th from its title in 1945 and was allocated to India upon its independence in 1947.

Enlisting in the army is seen as an honourable pursuit for Dogras, with the earnings of the soldiers of the regiment forming a sizeable part of the local economy. The regiment currently has 18 battalions. The 1st Battalion was re-roled in 1981 to become the 7th Battalion, Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

Soldiering has not only become a substantial part of the economic structure of the Dogra Hills, but created social and cultural traditions built on the people's association with the army. The regiment has produced one Army Chief, General Nirmal Chander Vij. The General also served as the 10th Colonel-in-Chief of the Dogra Regiment and the Dogra Scouts.

In the pre-Independence era, the Dogras had to their credit three Victoria Crosses and 44 Military Cross awards besides 312 other awards. Two battalions of the 17th Dogra Regiment (2nd and 3rd Battalions) also fought in the Malayan Campaign and, after the Fall of Singapore, a large number of the captured troops later went on to join the Indian National Army.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Units

\*2nd Battalion

- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion<sup>[3]</sup>



Soldiers of the Dogra Regiment departing from the Indira Gandhi International Airport on UN Peacekeeping Mission

## Battle honours

**Pre-Independence** combined battle honours of 37th (Prince of Wales's Own) Dogras, 38th Dogras, 41st Dogras

- The Great War: La Bassée 1914, Festubert 1914 '15, Givenchy 1914, Neuve Chapelle, Aubers, France and Flanders 1914-15, Egypt 1915, Megiddo, Nablus, Palestine 1918, Tigris 1916, Kut al Amara 1917, Baghdad, Mesopotamia 1915-18, Aden, NW Frontier India 1915 '17
- Afghanistan 1919
- The Second World War: Kota Bahru, Malaya 1941-42, Donbaik, Nunshigum, Magwe, Kennedy Peak, Burma 1942-45

### Post Independence

- Jhangar, Rajauri, Jammu and Kashmir 1947-48, Hajipir, Raja Picquet-Chand Tekri, OP Hill (NL 1053), Jammu and Kashmir 1965, Asal Uttar, Dograi, Punjab 1965, Suadhi, Siramani, Chaudhagram, East Pakistan 1971, Dera Baba Nanak, Punjab 1971 where Lt col Narinder Singh Sandhu displayed Valour and Courage and in the true traditions of the Indian Army won The Maha Vir Chakra.

- The Highest Gallantry Award with Dogra Regiment in post-independence era is Ashok Chakra that was conferred posthumously to Maj. Sandeep Shankla in 1992 by then President of India Shri. R. Venkataraman. Maj. Sandeep Shankla belonged to the 18th Regiment of the Dogras.

"The total collapse of the Pakistan Army's resistance is one of the most intriguing puzzles of the war in the East" wrote the Sunday Times on December 7, 1971 as Pakistan surrendered. The credit for the fall of Suadiah, a small village but a strong bastion of Pak army's most fortified position in Bangladesh, went to 9 Dogra. This led to the ultimate liberation of East Pakistan and the proud triumph of the Indian Army. For this herculean task, the battalion was awarded the battle honour of Suadiah.


## References

- [1] Sumner, Ian (2001). *The Indian Army 1914-1947*. Osprey Publishing. ISBN 1-84176-196-6.
- [2] Fay 1993, p. 137
- [3] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-dogra.htm>

## External links

- History of the Dogra Regiment (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-dogra.htm>)
  - The Dogra Regiment - Bharat Rakshak (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/109-Dogras.html>)
  - Commonwealth Regiments Site (<http://www.regiments.org/regiments/southasia/inf/1922-17.htm>)
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# The Garhwal Rifles

The Garhwal Rifles	
Regimental Insignia of the Garhwal Rifles	
<b>Active</b>	May 5, 1887–Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Size</b>	Nineteen battalions
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Lansdowne, India
<b>Motto</b>	Yudhaya Krit Nischya
<b>War Cry</b>	Badri Vishal Lal Ki Jai (Victory to the Great Lord Badri Nath)
<b>Anniversaries</b>	October 1
<b>Engagements</b>	North-West Frontier, First World War, Third Anglo-Afghan War, Waziristan Campaign, Second World War, First Kashmir War 1947, Sino-Indian War, Second Kashmir War of 1965, Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, Kargil War of 1999
Insignia	
<b>Identification symbol</b>	A Maltese Cross with Ashoka Emblem

The **Garhwal Rifles** is a light infantry or 'rifle' regiment of the Indian Army. It was originally raised as the **39th Garhwal Rifles** of the Bengal Army, became part of the old Indian Army, and received its present name on Indian independence. It served during the Frontier campaigns of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, as well in both the World Wars and the wars fought after Independence. Mainly made up of Garhwali soldiers, this regiment has a distinguished record and a unique identity. Today it is made up of more than 25,000 soldiers, organised into nineteen regular battalions (i.e. 2nd to 19th) and the Garhwal Scouts, who are stationed permanently at Joshimath. The 1st Battalion has been converted to a mechanised infantry unit as part of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment as its 6th battalion.

The regimental insignia is based on the defunct Royal Green Jackets as they are a designated rifle regiment.

## Recruitment

Soldiers recruited into the Garhwal Rifles are from the Garhwal Hills. Garhwal consists almost entirely of rugged mountain ranges running in all directions, and separated by narrow valleys which in some cases become deep gorges or ravines.

Millions of boys have left their mountain villages of Uttarakhand in search of good jobs or a better life than in the hills. For Uttarakhandi soldiers to enlist, it has been common practice to leave the villages in the hills in search of adventure and fortune, indeed it has become a tradition in Uttarakhand, which still continues unabated. *Paharis* (the people "of the mountains") have always played a role in defending the frontiers of the Republic of India.<sup>[1]</sup>



The Garhwal Rifles marching in the Republic Day Parade, Rajpath, New Delhi.

"Garhwal" is the land of many 'Garhs' meaning forts.<sup>[2]</sup> This region was made up of many small forts which were ruled by chieftains. Garhwal originally consisted of 52 petty chieftainships, each chief with his own independent fortress (garh). The rulers of Garhwal remained independent and repeatedly expelled the attacks of the Mughal rulers of Delhi. During the 19th century, the Gurkhas attacked Garhwal and drove the rulers of Garhwal down to the plains. Thereafter the rulers of Garhwal, with the help of the British forces in India, regained their kingdom.

The Regimental Training Centre and Headquarters is located at Lansdowne. Named after Lord Lansdowne who founded the place in 1887, Lansdowne, is one of the, albeit small, beautiful hill stations in the north Indian state of Uttarakhand. It is situated 45 km from Kotdwara en route Kotdwar-Pauri road in the Pauri Garhwal district. The training centre was built on the site of the old Kaludanda Fort.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2003, the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre, Lansdowne was awarded the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar (Indira Gandhi Environment Award), by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Early history

Prior to 1887, there was no separate battalion of the Garhwali soldiers. They used to be recruited in the Gorkha regiments, Bengal Infantry and Punjab Frontier Force.<sup>[5]</sup> Impressed by their simplicity, honesty, courage and dedication, the British government decided to form a separate battalion for the Garhwali soldiers. The Garhwal Rifles was raised in 1887 to give the Garhwali hillmen their own regiment. This was propagated by Field Marshal Sir Frederick Sleight Roberts, VC, who realized that many Garhwalis had served in Gurkha regiments, and majority of the early awards to Gurkha regiments were actually won by Garhwalis soldiers.<sup>[5]</sup>

On May 5, 1887, the first battalion was constituted under the command of Lieutenant Colonel E. P. Mainwaring at Almora. It was designated the 2nd Battalion, 3rd (Kumaon) Gurkha Regiment, and it comprised six companies of Garhwalis and two of Gurkhas.<sup>[5]</sup> On November 4 of the same year, this battalion reached Kalundanda in Garhwal. In 1890, Kalundanda was renamed as Lansdowne after the then Viceroy of India. In 1891, the two Gurkha companies were dropped and the battalion was redesignated the **39th (The Garhwal Rifles) Regiment of Bengal Infantry**. This was the first all Garhwali battalion.<sup>[5]</sup>

Following this, the Garhwalis served along the Tibet border, in the Chin Hills and on the North-East and North-West Frontiers of India, where they earned the battle honour 'Punjab Frontier'. In 1901, another battalion was raised as part of the Bengal Infantry. This was designated the 49th (The Garhwal Rifles) Regiment of Bengal Infantry. Later that



same year, this battalion and the 39th were regimented together to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 39th Garhwal Rifles.<sup>[6]</sup>

## The First World War (1914–18)

In the First World War, the Garhwal Rifles were involved in the war's first trench raid on 9/10 November 1914. The 1st and 2nd Battalions saw action in the trenches in France, where Naik Darwan Singh Negi and Rifleman Gabar Singh Negi<sup>[7]</sup> were both awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military bravery award of the British Empire. Members of the regiment also earned many other bravery awards including: 6 Distinguished Service Orders, 25 Military Crosses, 14 Indian Orders of Merit and 21 Indian Distinguished Service Medals. There were also a number of foreign awards, including French, Russian and Romanian awards.<sup>[8]</sup>

The 3rd Battalion was raised in 1916 and the 4th Battalion in 1917, this battalion became the 1st Kumaon Rifles in 1918, but the 4th Battalion was raised again in October 1918. These two battalions were raised in order to maintain security in India whilst the Indian Army fought overseas. The Garhwal Rifles received the rare honour of being conferred with the 'Royal' title, which was made official on 2 February 1921.<sup>[3]</sup>

## The Kotkai War (1919–1920)

During the Waziristan Campaign of 1919–1920, sometimes referred to as the Kotkai War, Lieutenant William David Kenny of the 4th/39th Garhwal Regiment won the Regiment's third Victoria Cross when he led a small force of men in a desperate counter-attack against a superior force of Mahsud tribesmen in order to allow the rest of his company to withdraw to safety. Kenny, along with the rest of his assault party, was killed in the action, and the gallantry award was made posthumously on 9 September 1920.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Link to the Indian Nationalist Movement

Against the backdrop of growing civil unrest and Indian nationalism in the 1930s, some historians<sup>[8]</sup> have asserted that the Regiment fell into disfavour with the British following an incident at Peshawar on 23 April 1930, when a detachment of the 2/18 Garhwal Rifles apparently refused to obey an order to open fire on an unruly crowd that was causing a disturbance. Following the controversial arrest of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the Khudai Khidmatgar (nationalist satyagrahis) gathered to protest, and the troops were called out in response to the demonstration. What followed next is disputed — some historians have claimed that the crowd was peaceful and unarmed, and that the members of the Regiment were ordered to open fire by their British officers but, under the leadership of Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali refused to do so against unarmed civilians. It has been asserted that the whole incident galvanised the entire freedom movement.<sup>[10]</sup> Other accounts, however, have painted a different picture. At the time, it was felt that the Garhwalis had failed in their duty, however, the official report following the incident cited evidence that the crowd had turned violent and that the regiment did in fact open fire, as per their orders, and that the crowd then dispersed.<sup>[11]</sup>

The aftermath, however, seems clearer. Following the incident at Peshawar the Regiment received a black mark against its name, and the loyalty of its members was called into question. Matters were made worse when, the following day, two platoons refused to fall in, and several men declared that they wished to be discharged. Because of this, higher command believed that the battalion was disaffected and, as a result, the disaffected men were ordered to return their weapons and dismiss. Later the entire battalion was disarmed. A Court of Inquiry afterwards found that the men of the Regiment had acted properly according to the confused orders that they had received on the day of the incident in Peshawar, but on the subject of the incident the following day it was quite swift in handing out the punishments. The riflemen of the two platoons that had refused to fall in were all dismissed from the service, whilst of the seventeen non-commissioned officers, one received transportation for life, another was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment and the other fifteen also received various smaller terms of imprisonment.<sup>[11]</sup>

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These punishments seem quite harsh in the circumstances, but probably serve to highlight the concern that the British had surrounding the incident at the time, when it was felt on both sides, not without reason, that British rule in India was coming to an end.<sup>[12]</sup> This did not turn out to be completely correct, of course, for the Raj still had another seventeen years to run, but it almost certainly served as a portent of the future.

## The Second World War (1939–45)

During the Second World War, five more battalions of the Garhwal Rifles were raised. These were: the 4th (re-raised having been converted into a training battalion and designated 10th Battalion earlier), the 5th, 6th, 7th and 25th (Garrison) battalion.<sup>[13]</sup> The Regiment saw active service in almost all of the theatres of the war, including: Burma, Malaya, Egypt, Iraq, Eritrea, Abyssinia.<sup>[14]</sup>

The 2nd and 5th Battalions were captured in the fall of Singapore and remained in captivity until the end of the war.

The Regiment's casualties during the war were high, with some 350 killed and approximately 1,400 wounded.<sup>[13]</sup> However, whilst other regiments received due reward for their sacrifices, the Garhwal Regiment received very few — no Victoria Crosses — a fact which has never been explained, although there has been speculation that this was due in part to the memory of the 1930 Peshawar incident.<sup>[15]</sup>

Following the war the 1st and 3rd Battalions served briefly in a garrison role in Sumatra and Italy before returning to India. The 4th Battalion was used to reconstitute the 2nd Battalion in May 1946. The 5th Battalion was not raised again and the 6th Battalion was disbanded at war's end.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Post Independence

After the formation of India in 1947 and the subsequent merger of the various states in India at the time, the Garhwal Princely State was among the first to be merged in with the Indian Union. Subsequently, the Regiment was transferred to the newly independent Indian Army. Following this, the Regiment was involved in the conflict in Jammu & Kashmir for a time, during which the 3rd Battalion's role with the 161st Brigade in the Uri-Punch linkup was of particular note.<sup>[16]</sup>



In 1950, the Royal title was dropped from the Regiment's name when India became a Republic. Other regimental symbols that were associated with the British were also discontinued, although the regimental lanyard continued to be worn on the right shoulder in traditional 'Royal' fashion.<sup>[17]</sup> In 1953, the Regiment contributed to the United Nations custodian force in Korea.<sup>[18]</sup>

## Indo-China War of 1962

The **4 Garhwal Rifles** played a significant role in the India-China War of 1962.<sup>[19]</sup> The sacrifice along the frontier of Garhwali lives was enormous, as the Indian Army was ill-prepared for the rapidly advancing Chinese. Badly equipped for high altitude combat, short on supplies, and reconnaissance of the enemy, the Indian troops struggled valiantly onward, despite fighting a losing war to both the invaders and frostbite. Indeed, one battalion of the Garhwal Rifles was surrounded and suffered many casualties in the short, but bloody engagement that followed. Rfn. Jaswant Singh Rawat of the 4 Garhwal Rifles (Mahavir Chakra — posthumously), was honoured after being executed, by the Chinese themselves. He has a temple in his honour at Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh).

## Indo-Pakistan War of 1965

### Battle of Gadra City

The **1 Garhwal Rifles** were deployed along the border in Rajasthan Sector. The battalion commanded by Lt. Col O.P.Lahiri launched attack on Gadra City at 6.45 a.m. and captured it by 1.00 p.m.<sup>[20]</sup> In the morning of 18 September one company of the battalion repulsed Pakistani attack who fled leaving behind 12 bodies and 1 Jeep.<sup>[20]</sup> On 22 September the battalion offered a stubborn resistance to the Pakistani multi pronged offensive to recapture Gadra City and were supported by Pakistan Air Force. But the battalion stood the ground and repulsed all the attacks.<sup>[20]</sup>

### Battle of Buttur Dograndi

The **8 Garhwal Rifles** played a vital role in the **Battle of Buttur Dograndi** where the Major Abdul Rafi Khan of 8 Garhwal Rifles had managed to regroup his scattered companies after the first failed assault and it was decided that A Sqn Poona Horse along with 8 Garhwal would launch another attack on Buttur Dograndi which had in the meantime been occupied by some elements of 3 Frontier Force. D company of the 8 Garhwalis led the advance and met only minor opposition and the village was retaken. On 17 September, Pakistan's 4th Corps artillery sporadically fired on the Garhwali positions with medium and heavy guns. Later during the day some enemy armour also appeared with infantry. The Garhwalis fought on with their small arms, well concealed as they were in the thick crops. Two tanks ( 25 Cavalry) entered the defended area and started spraying the Garhwalis with their machine guns from close range. Rifleman Balwant Singh Bisht took up a rocket launcher and managed to put one of these tanks out of action. He was himself blown to pieces by a shell shot from the tank gun. Casualties were heavy on both sides but 3FF and the tank troop had to withdraw against the determination of the Garhwalis. Although the later battle saw the Garhwalis being ordered to withdraw under heavy artillery fire of the enemy as the position had become untenable, yet the determination of Major Khan allowed them to withdraw to safety, but Major Khan stayed back with the wounded who could not be evacuated. Major Khan was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously in the battle.<sup>[21]</sup> After the battle statistics of killed were 2 officers and 47 other ranks. On the other hand 3rd Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment: Killed 3 JCO's and 64 other ranks, wounded 3 JCO's and 100 other ranks.

### Operation Hill

The **2nd Battalion** battalion was part of the battle during **Operation Hill**. On October 6/7, 1965 the battalion was nominated by the GOC for the task of attacking and capturing the area where the Pakistani infiltrators had managed to build up their defences. The attack by the battalion was launched with great courage and determination. However, due to wrong intelligence assessment of enemy strength and disposition with insufficient time to reorient itself and very little fire support, the battalion suffered heavy casualties and the attack was beaten back by a battalion strength of Pakistanis. The battalion took part in second attack on enemy position in conjunction with other battalions. In this operation, B company laid an ambush and captured one Pakistani officer. Capt C N Singh of the "Superb Second" won the only Mahavir Chakra of the regiment during the 1965 operations. Reacting to specific information about presence of infiltrators, Capt CN Singh attacked them with great ferocity and valour. In a close quarter hand-to-hand fight, he was fatally wounded and later succumbed to his injuries. For his gallant leadership and valour, he was awarded the coveted Maha Vir Chakra. after Major Khan death Maj HS Rautela took the command and successfully fought and evacuated the injured till the replacement could arrive. He later won the Sena Medal for his gallantry when he captured the village of Gurkhi in Pakaishtan and was named after his name. The battalion won 1 MVC, 2 SMs and 5 COAS Commendation Cards.<sup>[22]</sup>

## 1971 War

During the 1971 war with Pakistan, **11th Garhwal** was in the Eastern theatre with the 6th Mountain Division under Maj. Gen P.C. Reddy. **2nd Garhwal Rifles** was with 2nd Mountain Division and was allotted to 101 Comn Z for thrust upon Dhaka itself. **12th Battalion** was in the Bengal area for support.<sup>[23]</sup> All the units performed all the tasks satisfactorily.

The **5th Garhwal Rifles** was tasked in the **Battle of Hilli**. In the third phase of the battle, 5 Garhwal Rifles, were given a very difficult task of capturing several small villages of Basudevpur, Hakimpur and Rangapara. Each attack had to be separately organised, with adequate mortar and artillery fire. The Garhwalis emerged victorious.<sup>[24]</sup>

## Post 1971

Established as a single class regiment, the Garhwal Rifles remained so until 1984. Following a national policy review, the 18th Garhwal Joint Battalion was constituted in 1985 along with the merger of companies of Jat, Dogra and Maratha regiments.

## The Kargil Operations in 1999

The Garhwal Rifles had the proud privilege of playing a decisive role in dislodging Pakistani forces and recapturing Tiger Hill during the Kargil conflict of 1999. The Chief of Army Staff made a special immediate award of a "Unit Citation"<sup>[25]</sup> to **18th Battalion**, The Garhwal Rifles, for their meritorious and gallant performance during the battles of Point 5140 on the night of 19/20 June and Point 4700 on the night of 27/28 June 1999, in Dras Sector. This award was received by their commanding officer, Col. Anshu Trivedi.

Capt. Jintu Gogoi, **17th Garhwal Rifles** was lost in heavy artillery exchange with the enemy in the Batalik Sector. Not to be outdone the **17th Garhwal Rifles** and the **10th Garhwal Rifles** performed above all expectations during the Kargil War.

With so many families in the hills of Garhwal and Kumaon who have sons (and daughters) in the military, the conflict in Kashmir has taken a heavy toll. The Garhwal Rifles, as well as other Himalayan regiments (the Gurkha Rifles, Ladakh Scouts, Naga Regiment, and Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry) were all entrusted with operations in Kargil in 1999. They joined their Sikh, Rajasthani, Mahar, and Bihari brothers as a multicultural and multi-faith force on the frontlines, suffering the brunt of casualties in defence of the state.

## Operation Sarp Vinash 2003

The Indian Army's Northern Command conducted a complex militant camp-busting operation called Sarp Vinash with skill and precision, easily one of the landmark counter-terrorism operations in Jammu & Kashmir—Hillkaka area. Hillkaka was no Kargil in its strategic importance but merely a staging post for Pakistani Muslim militants. Operation Sarp Vinash was a division-size operation involving seven battalions and two brigade headquarters. Spearheaded by 9 Para Special Forces, six other units of 163 Infantry Brigade and 12 RR sector took part. These were 2/4 Gorkha Rifles, **15 Garhwal Rifles**, **4 Garhwal Rifles**, 16 and 20 Rashtriya Rifles. It was estimated that up to 100 militants were in and around the Hillkaka hideout spread out in the forest when Special Forces struck in the initial raid. They killed 13 Pakistani militants and captured two of whom one died later. In subsequent combing operations which lasted 10 days, **4 Garhwal Rifles** ambushed seven militants near Haripur while they were attempting to cross over into Srinagar. Altogether, 45 Muslim militants were killed against a loss of four soldiers killed and two wounded. Substantial recoveries were made. Approximately 60 caches and hideouts were busted yielding 20 AK 47 rifles, 5 PIKA guns, two sniper rifles and unspecified quantities of grenade launchers, self loading rifles and 45 kg of plastic explosives. In addition substantial quantities of radio sets, and other communication equipment was also recovered besides rations enough to feed 500 men for two weeks.<sup>[26]</sup>

## Units

D\*3rd Battalion

- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion<sup>[27]</sup>

## Honours

### Battle honours

So far the Regiment has earned 30 battle honours. Of these, five have been awarded in the post-Independence period. The Regiment has also won the following theatre honours: Jammu & Kashmir — 1947–48, Ladakh — 1962, Punjab — 1965, Rajasthan — 1965, East Pakistan — 1971, Kargil — 1999.

### Battle Honours Pre Independence

- Punjab Frontier 1897-1898
  - La Basse 1914
  - Armentiers 1914
  - Festubert 1914-1915
  - Neuve Chapelle 1915
  - Aubers 1915
  - France and Flanders 1914-1915
  - Egypt 1915-1916
  - Macedonia 1918
  - Khan Baghdadi 1918
  - Sharqat 1918
  - Macepotamia 1917-1918
  - Gallabat 1940
  - Barentu 1941
  - Keren 1941
  - Massawa 1941
  - Amba Alagi 1941
  - Kuantan 1942
  - Yenangyaung 1942
  - Monywa 1942
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- Citta Di Castello 1944
- North Arakan 1944
- Ngakyedauk Pass 1944
- Ramree 1944
- Taungup 1945

#### **Battle Honours Post Independence<sup>[28]</sup>**

- Tithwal 1947-48
- J&K 1947-48
- Ladakh 1962
- Nuranang 1965
- Buttar Dograndi 1965
- Gadra Road 1965
- Punjab 1965
- Rajasthan 1965
- Hilli 1971
- East Pakistan 1971.

#### **Theatre Honour Second World War**

- North Africa (1940–43)
- Malaya (1941–42)
- Burma (1942–45)
- Italy (1943–45)

### **Decorations**

#### **Decorations (Pre Independence)**

Victoria Cross Recipients

- Naik Darwan Singh Negi - First World War, Festubert-France, 1914
- Rifleman Gabbar Singh (posthumous) - First World War, Neuve Chapelle, 1915
- Lt. William David Kenny (posthumous) - Waziristan Campaign, 1920

Soldiers from the Garhwal Regiment were among the first Indian soldiers to receive the Victoria Cross — which was, at the time, the highest decoration a soldier in the British or Commonwealth Forces could receive for gallantry — with two soldiers receiving this honour for their actions during the First World War.<sup>[29]</sup> A British officer of the 4th/39th Garhwal Rifles, also received a Victoria Cross during the Waziristan Campaign in 1920.<sup>[30]</sup>

#### **Decorations (Post Independence)**

**Ashok Chakra** Recipient:

- Naik Bhavani Datt Joshi (posthumous), June 1984, Operation Blue Star, Amritsar, India<sup>[31]</sup> for his actions during the operation against Sikh separatists

**Mahavir Chakra** Recipient:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Kaman Singh, Indo-Pakistan War, 1948.
- Lieutenant-Colonel B.M Bhattacharya, Sino-Indian war, 1962
- Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat (posthumous), Sino-Indian war, 1962
- Captain Chandranarayan Singh, Indo-Pakistan war, 1965

Of the other Gallantry award winners the following are of particular note -

- During the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971, Rifleman Makar Singh Negi of **6 Garhwal Rifles** received the Vir Chakra for exceptional bravery & valour, during the **Battle of Nawanpind**.
- In 1989, Rifleman Kuldeep Singh Bhandari of **5 Garhwal Rifles** received the Vir Chakra for his bravery, leadership qualities and dedication to duty.<sup>[32]</sup>
- In 2003, Captain Vivek Mishra of **16 Garhwal Rifles** received the Shaurya Chakra for his bravery, leadership qualities and dedication to duty.<sup>[33]</sup>
- Major Ajay Kothiyal received Kirti Chakra in 2004.<sup>[34]</sup> He also led the mission which made military history and record as the first military to use ski in a mountaineering expedition. He used ski to come down the mountain - Mt. Trisul (7120 m)<sup>[35]</sup>
- Capt Vishal Bhandral (posthumous) Kirti Chakra in September 2006 near Bandipura in Baramulla district, J&K.<sup>[36]</sup>

## Reunion 2004

The 12th Reunion of the Garhwal Rifles was organized at its Regimental Centre in Lansdowne in June 2004. The highlight of the two-day celebrations was the special sainik sammelan presided over by Maj Gen MC Bhandari, the Colonel of Garhwal Rifles and Garhwal Scouts.

Addressing the sammelan, Maj Gen Bhandari recalled the gallant deeds of the Garhwali soldiers and said that the Garhwal Rifles has added a golden chapter in the annals of the Army history. Maj Gen Bhandari, on the occasion, released a commemorative First Day cover designed by Army Postal Service (APS) in the presence of Col M Eleesha, Director, APS, Central Command.

An attestation parade was also held as part of the reunion celebrations in which 266 recruits were inducted as full-fledged soldiers. Maj Gen Bhandari, who administered the oath, also presented medals to the distinguished recruits of the course. Rfn Rajiv Singh was adjudged the best recruit and received gold medal. Rfn Ashish Rawat was declared best in drill, Rfn Bhagwan Singh in PT and Rfn Sandeep Singh in firing. After the parade, the Colonel of the Regiment felicitated 22 Veer Naris and next-of-kin of martyrs.

Maj Gen Bhandari, retired senior officers and the Subedar Major of the Regimental Center laid wreaths in homage to those who laid down their lives in the battlefield and brought glory to their regiment in a solemn ceremony organised at the Regimental War Memorial.

About 300 officers and jawans, both serving and retired, from across the country participated in the celebrations. The veteran soldiers who attended the celebrations included the 92-year-old Lt Col IS Thapa and 80-year-old Maj PM Rex who served the Royal Garhwal Rifles from 1942 to 1948 and had come along with his wife from England. Several senior retired officers of the regiment attended, including Lt. Gen. ML Tuli (former Vice Chief of Army Staff), and Lt. Gen. K. Mahendra Singh (former Deputy Chief of Army Staff, and Col. of the regiment), participated. Lt Gen RS Gaur, who retired as a Quarter Master General, Army Headquarters also participated in celebrations. They cherished old memories on this occasion.

A badakhana and a variety entertainment programme were other highlights of the celebrations. A number of adventurous events organised to mark the occasion included para-drop and sky-diving demonstration by 50 (Independent) Para Brigade, motorcycle display by a 36-member team of the Corps of Military Police which came from Bangalore dogs' display by RVC Centre, Meerut.

## The Quasqui Centenary (125 yrs) Celebrations

The regiment shall be celebrating completion of its 125 years of valour laden history during Oct 2012. The event will be celebrated as a mega event spread over six days. The details will be posted shortly.

## The Regimental Centre — Lansdowne

Lansdowne, at a height of 5800 ft (**unknown operator: u'strong'** m) above sea level, is the recruitment centre of the Garhwal Rifles. On October 1, 1921 the regimental centre celebrated its first founder's day. Now October 1 is celebrated as the raising day of the battalion. After Independence, the name of the centre was changed to Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre. The rigorous drills during the training helps to infuse a sense of discipline in every recruit. Special emphasis is laid on physical fitness, mental toughness and weapon handling. After successful completion of the 34-week training course, a Garhwali youth is turned into a soldier. The soldier is then trained for two more weeks in counter-insurgency operations.

## Colonels of the Garhwal Rifles and Scouts

- Maj. Gen. G. Bharat Singh, MC
- Maj. Gen. Hira Lal Atal
- Maj. Gen. H.N. Shingal PVSM, AVSM
- Lt. Gen. K. Mahendra Singh, PVSM (1979–1987)
- Lt. Gen. R.V. Kulkarni, PVSM, UYSM
- Maj. Gen. SPS Kanwar
- Brig. Abinash Dhillon
- Brig. Jagmohan Rawat
- Maj. Gen. Satish Sondhi
- Maj. Gen. Anil Walter Ranbhise
- Lt Gen Dr Mohan Chandra Bhandari, PVSM, AVSM\*
- Lt. Gen. Paramjit Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM
- Lt Gen B.K. Chengappa, AVSM
- Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM\*\*

## Notes

- [1] Their involvement with regiments such as the Garhwal Rifles and the Kumaon Regiment reflects the participation of the hill people in the defence forces and their commitment to the Indian nation.
- [2] Sharma, p. 240
- [3] Sharma, p. 239
- [4] "List of Awardees" (<http://envfor.nic.in/citizen/award/igpp.html#LIST>). Ministry of Environment and Forests. .
- [5] Sharma, p. 241
- [6] Sharma, p. 242
- [7] Gabar Singh Negi
- [8] Sharma, p. 246
- [9] *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 32046. pp. 9133–9134 (<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/32046/supplements/9133>). 7 September 1920. Retrieved 2008-01-15.
- [10] Kaul, p. 36
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- [29] For many years Indian soldiers were not eligible to receive the Victoria Cross, instead they received the Indian Order of Merit, which was considered to be equivalent. This was changed in 1911, however, when all members of the British Empire and Commonwealth forces became eligible for the Victoria Cross. On a further note, there were five VCs awarded to Indian soldiers during the First World War, and the Garhwal Regiment had the honour of winning two of them.
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# Kumaon Regiment

The Kumaon Regiment	
Regimental Insignia of the Kumaon Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1813 - Present (1945-Present with the name "The Kumaon regiment")
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 Battalions including 1 battalion of the Kumaon Scouts
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Parakramo Vijayate (Valour Triumphs)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Kalika Mata Ki Jai (Victory to the Great Goddess Kali)</i> <i>Bajrang Bali Ki Jai (Victory to Bajrang Bali)</i> <i>Dada Kishan Ki Jai (Victory to Dada Kishan)</i> <i>Jai Durge Naga</i>
<b>Decorations</b>	2 Param Vir Chakras, 4 Ashoka Chakras, 10 Maha Vir Chakras, 6 Kirti Chakras, 2 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 78 Vir Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra & Bar, 23 Shaurya Chakras, 1 Yudh Seva Medal, 127 Sena Medals, 2 Sena Medals and Bar, 8 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 24 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 1 PV, 2 PB, 1 PS, 1 AW and 36 Vishisht Seva Medals.
<b>Battle honours</b>	<b>Post Independence</b> Srinagar (Badgam), Rezangla, Gadra City, Bhaduria, Daudkandi, Sanjoi Mirpur and Shamsheer Nagar
Commanders	
<b>Current commander</b>	Lt Gen N. C. Marwah, AVSM
<b>Notable commanders</b>	General S M Shrinagesh General K S Thimayya General T N Raina
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A demi-rampant lion holding a cross. The demi-rampant lion is part of the arms of the Russel family, whose ancestor had started the body of troops now formed into the Kumaon Regiment.

**The Kumaon Regiment** is one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army. The regiment traces its origins to the 18th century and has fought in every major campaign of the British Indian Army and the Indian Army, including the two world wars. Kumaon gets its recruits from Kumaonis of Kumaon division and Ahir from the plains.<sup>[1]</sup>

## History

### Martial History of Kumaonis

Kumaonis have been famous for their valour, their legendary courage and their indomitable honour. The Kumaonis were never fully subjugated by the powerful Muslim dynasties of Delhi. They often offered their martial services as mercenaries, and fought on both the British as well as Gurkha sides in the Anglo-Nepalese War. Their valour was recognized by the British and they were enlisted in the British Army. Interestingly, the famous **3rd Gurkha**

**regiment** was known as the **Keemaon battalion** when it was formed and included Kumaonis along with the Gurkhas. They were classified as a Martial Race by the British. The achievements of the regiment are a living testimony of their martial traditions.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Origins in the Hyderabad Contingent

The Kumaonis were in the military of the East India Company from the early 19th century. They often moved to other states in search of military service, including in the service of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The Nizam's Contingent was formed when Richard Wellesley, 1st Marquess Wellesley, brother of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, became Governor-General of India and formed a plan to rid India of French influence.<sup>[3]</sup> His first action, on arriving in India in 1798, was to effect the disbandment of the Indian units of the Nizam under the command of Monsieur Raymond and officered by non-British Europeans. These soldiers were formed into the British officered Nizam's Contingent that fought at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799 against Tippu Sultan in the final battle of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1813, Sir Henry Russell, then British Resident in the court of Nizam of Hyderabad, raised the Russell Brigade comprising two battalions. Later, four more battalions were raised and they were known as the Berar Infantry. In addition, two battalions known as the Elichpur Brigade, were raised by Nawab Salabat Khan, Subedar of Berar, as a part of the Nizam's forces. The men of the Russell Brigade were chiefly Hindus, recruited from Oudh and other parts of Uttar Pradesh.<sup>[5]</sup>

By 1853, at the time of the signing of a treaty between the Nizam and the British, the Nizam's forces consisted of 8 battalions. The force was renamed as the Hyderabad Contingent, and became part of the British Indian Army.

During World War I, a Kumaon Battalion was raised at Ranikhet on 23 October 1917 as 4/39th Kumaon Rifles. In 1918, it was redesignated as 1st battalion, 50th Kumaon Rifles and a second battalion was raised. These were merged with the Hyderabad Contingent into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1923. Some units of the regiment were demobilized after World War I, but the regiment was again expanded during World War II.

On 27 October 1945, the 19th Hyderabad was renamed as **19 Kumaon Regiment**. Post-independence, it has been known as the **Kumaon Regiment**.

## Regimental history

On 1 November 1970, the Naga Regiment was raised and affiliated with the Kumaon Regiment. Kumaon has produced three Indian Army Chiefs: General Satyawant Mallannah Shrinagesh (4 Kumaon), General Kodendera Subayya Thimayya (4 Kumaon) and General Tapishwar Narain Raina (14 Kumaon).

1 Kumaon, originally raised in March 1813, converted to the airborne role in 1946 but remained a part of the regiment until April 1952 when it was formally inducted into the Parachute Regiment as 3 Para.

14 Kumaon, converted to the mechanised infantry role, and was transferred to the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, as its 5th Battalion.

## Engagements

### World War I

During World War I, the first all Kumaoni battalions were raised. The first was formed in 1917 as the 4/39th (Kumaon) Royal Garhwal Rifles and redesignated in 1918 as the 1st Battalion, 50th Kumaon Rifles when it fought in the Battle of Megiddo (1918). A 2nd Battalion was also raised in 1918 but disbanded in 1923. The Hyderabad Contingent, with its mixed Kumaoni, Jats, Ahirs and Deccan Muslims, continued and fought with distinction in the Great War. In 1922, during the Indian Army reorganisation, the six regiments of the Hyderabad Contingent were renamed as the 19th Hyderabad Regiment and infantry companies formed from the Kumaon region replaced many of

the Deccan Muslim based companies. In 1923 the 1/50th Kumaon Rifles joined the 19th Hyderabad Regiment as the 1st Kumaon Rifles.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1935 the battalion commanders attempted to have the regiment renamed as the 19th Kumaon Regiment, due to the diminishing links to the Deccan and Hyderabad regions. The request was refused.<sup>[3]</sup>

## World War II

The 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1939 consisted of four regular battalions; the 1st (Russell's), 2nd (Berar), 4th and The Kumaon Rifles. The Hyderabad expanded during the war adding another eight battalions to the 19th Hyderabad Regiment. Two more battalions, the 1st and 2nd Hyderabad Infantry, were raised as part of the Indian State Forces. The battalions of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment fought in the Middle East, North African Campaign, Persia, Battle of Malaya, Battle of Singapore and Burma Campaign.<sup>[4]</sup>

The Kumaon Rifles were based in Hong Kong at the beginning of the Second World War but were transferred to the Middle East as part of the 24th Indian Infantry Brigade. The battalion took part in the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran in 1941 under Major-General William Slim. They remained in Persia as part of the garrison throughout the rest of the war.<sup>[6]</sup>

The 4th Battalion was part of the 12th Indian Infantry Brigade based in Malaya when the Japanese Army invaded in December 1941. The 4/19th Hyderabad were one of the few battalions in Malaya that were relatively well trained in jungle warfare. Although the battalion performed well in the fighting retreat in north-west Malaya, they were practically annihilated at the disastrous Battle of Slim River on 7 January 1942. The few survivors of the 4th Battalion were withdrawn to Singapore where they took part in the brief defence of the island before it surrendered on 15 February 1942.

## Sino-Indian War of 1962

### Battle of Walong

This was the only battle of the war in which an Indian unit attacked the Chinese, rather than defending. On 14 November 1962, 6 KUMAON single-handedly attacked and captured Chinese defenses in the Walong sector, Arunachal Pradesh without any artillery or aerial support.<sup>[7]</sup>

The Chinese retaliated with wave after wave of human bodies and artillery. The Kumaonis were vastly outnumbered by over 10 to 1, but held the ground and repulsed every attack until all their ammunition was exhausted, without any logistical support. They then engaged in hand-to-hand combat, and fought to the last man and bullet. Five times as many Chinese soldiers died in the battle. The Chinese succeeded in retaking the defences when there was no Kumaoni left standing.

Five Vir Chakras were awarded to 6 KUMAON soldiers for the battle. The Battalion celebrates November 14 as Walong Day.

### Battle of Rezang La

Among the many heroic exploits to the regiment's credit is the last stand of Company C, 13 Kumaon Regiment, at Rezang La, Ladakh. The First Battle of Rezang La has been placed in the ten most heroic stands in history along with the Battle of Saragarhi and Battle of the Alamo. Of the 118 men at Rezang La, 109 men laid down their lives, 5 men were captured and only 4 men returned alive.<sup>[7]</sup> None of the No.7 Platoon survived the action.

Major Shaitan Singh, commanding officer of the C Company, was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for his exemplary leadership during the battle. The account of this battle was an inspiration for Kavi Pradeep's legendary song, *Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon*, sung by Lata Mangeshkar.

13 Kumaon was deployed in Chushul sector. 'C' Company's three platoons were numbered 7, 8 and 9 and had Lee-Enfield .303 rifles with about 600 rounds per jawan, and between them six LMGs, and 1,000 grenades and mortar bombs. The 'C' Coy held a crucial position at Rezang La, at a height of 5000 metres (**unknown operator:**

**u'strong'** ft). The company area was defended by three platoon positions and the surrounding mountainous terrain isolated it from the rest of the battalion. The expected Chinese attack on Rezang La came on the morning of November 18. It was at the end of a very cold winter night, with light snow falling. The icy winds howling through Rezang La were biting and numbing. More than the thin air and cold, the location of Rezang La had a more serious drawback. It was crested to Indian artillery because of an intervening feature, which meant that C Coy had no covering fire from the big guns. In the dim light of the morning, the Chinese were seen advancing through nullahs to attack No.7 and No.8 platoon positions.

The Indian Army troops fell on their prepared positions to face the Chinese offensive. At 0500 hours when visibility improved, both platoons opened up on the advancing Chinese with rifles, light machine guns, grenades and mortars. Indian artillery could, however, not be used. The nullahs were littered with Chinese dead bodies. The survivors took position behind boulders and the dead bodies. The Chinese, though they failed the first frontal attack, were not discouraged. They subjected the Indian positions to intense artillery and mortar fire at about 0540 hours. Soon after about 350 Chinese troops commenced advance through the nullahs. This time, No.9 Platoon, which held fire till the enemy was within 90 metres opened up with all weapons in their possession. Within minutes, the nullahs were again full of dead bodies, mainly the Chinese.

Unsuccessful in frontal attack, the enemy, approximately 400 strong, then attacked from the rear of the company position. They simultaneously opened intense medium machine gun fire on No.8 Platoon. This attack was contained at the barbed wire fencing of the post. The Chinese then resorted to heavy artillery and mortar shelling. An assault group of 120 Chinese also charged No.7 Platoon position from the rear. However, Indian Army 3-inch mortar killed many of them. When 20 survivors charged the post, about a dozen Kumaonis rushed out of their trenches to engage in hand-to-hand combat. Meanwhile, the Chinese brought up fresh reinforcements. The encirclement of No.7 Platoon was now complete. The platoon, however, fought valiantly till there were no survivors. No.8 Platoon also fought bravely to the last round.

Major Shaitan Singh, the Company Commander, displayed exemplary leadership and courage in the battle of Rezang La. By all survivor accounts, he led his troops most admirably. Unmindful of his personal safety he moved from one platoon post to another and encouraged his men to fight. While moving among the posts he was seriously wounded, by a sniping Chinese MMG. But he continued to fight along with his men. While he was being evacuated by two of his comrades, the Chinese brought heavy machine gun fire on them. Major Shaitan Singh sensing danger to their lives, ordered them to leave him. They placed him behind a boulder on the slopes of a hill, where he breathed his last.

The Chinese announced a unilateral ceasefire on November 21, 1962.

In this action, 109 Kumaonis out of a total of 123 were killed. Of the 14 survivors, 9 were severely injured. The Chinese suffered almost a thousand casualties. After the war was over, the body of Major Shaitan Singh was found at the same place, dead from the bullet wounds and the freezing cold. He was flown to Jodhpur and cremated with full military honours. Major Shaitan Singh was awarded Param Vir Chakra, the highest wartime gallantry medal, posthumously, for his leadership and devotion to duty.

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## **Indo-Pakistan War of 1965**

### **Battle of Kumaon Hill**

Two companies of Kumaon captured Kumaon Hill after ousting companies of 23 Azad Kashmir Battalion and the Special Service Group from the heights on 21 September. Captain Surendra Shah and Naik Chander Singh were awarded the Vir Chakra for the battle.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **Battle of Maharajke**

On 7 September 1965 a Kumaon battalion attacked and captured a Pakistan Army stronghold in village Pagowal, 13 miles inside West Pakistan. On 7 September, 9 KUMAON, under the command Capt V K Bogra further advanced and captured Maharajke. Naik Ganesh Dutt of the 9 Kumaon was awarded the Vir Chakra for his role in capturing Maharjke against Pakistani defenses.

### **Battle of Chhamb**

To preempt Pakistani attacks into India, a Kumaon battalion was advanced into to Mandiala Heights in West Pakistan at August end, 1965. Before they had the chance to set up any defences, the Pakistan Army started a major offensive in the Chhamb sector in the early hours of 1 September, accompanied by massive artillery shelling targeting the Kumaon battalion's positions. There followed an armored thrust by 2 Pakistani armored divisions. Faced with enemy advancing from 3 sides, the battalion held off for a day and a half. On 2 September the battalion was ordered to withdraw, after they had destroyed 4 Pakistani tanks. One Vir Chakra was awarded for the action.

## **Indo-Pakistan War of 1971**

Kumaon battalions were deployed and fought on both the Eastern and the Western fronts during the war.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **Operation Meghdoot**

The Indian Army's initiative to hold the Siachen Glacier consisted of units of the Kumaon Regiment and the Ladakh Scouts. It was led by Major R.S. Sandhu, who was awarded the Vir Chakra for his leadership. Captain Sanjay Kulkarni's unit was the first to land on Bilafond La and hoist the Indian tricolour. Kumaon units were instrumental in Indian success in capturing the glacier and repelling Pakistani attempts to retake it.<sup>[8]</sup>

Anticipating a Pakistani attack on the glacier at the start of the spring thaw in 1984, a full Kumaon battalion led by Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier) D.K. Khanna, marched on foot with full packs and equipment for weeks in the dead of the winter across Zoji La, through the world's toughest terrain, highest altitudes and most forbidding climate. Naik (later Subedar/Honorary Captain) Ram Mehar Singh was awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his gallant role during the move. This turned out to be a vital move that enabled Indian victory in Operation Meghdoot.

### **Operation Pawan**

Kumaon units were deployed to Sri Lanka during Operation Pawan. A Kumaon battalion was the first Indian Army unit to land in Jaffna at the Palali airfield.<sup>[8]</sup> It successfully cleared the Kokuvil area, and moving to Mallakam. A number of LTTE militants were killed or captured.

Another battalion was deployed to search and destroy LTTE camps in the Kumurupiddi and Irrakandi areas of the Trincomalee Sector. Among the areas in which Kumaon units were deployed and operated included Kilividdi of Muttur Sector, Sampur, Vellvutturai and Point Pedro.

## Kargil War

Kumaon units were deployed during Operation Vijay to oust Pakistani Army regulars who had infiltrated the Kargil sector posing as insurgents. In difficult terrain and hostile weather conditions, they cleared and captured a number of altitude features. The regiment was honored with a number of gallantry awards for the operations.

## Units

- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion <Rifles>
- 4th Battalion <*Fighting Fourth*>
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 11th Battalion <double first veer aheer>>
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion [ REZANG LA ]
- 15th Battalion < Indore>
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion (ex-31st Battalion)
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion
- Kumaon Scouts

The Kumaon regiment also has affiliated to it three battalions (third Bn the Naga Regt is recently raised) of the Naga Regiment and two Territorial Army units (the 111 Infantry Battalion and the 130 Infantry Battalion), a naval ship and an airforce squadron.

Furthermore, the following regiments were also associated with this regiment at one time:

- 1st Battalion - Now the 3rd Parachute
- 10th Battalion - Now the Kumaon Regimental Centre
- 14th Battalion - Now the 5th Mech. Inf <sup>[9]</sup>

## Battle honours

- Srinagar (Badgam)
  - Rezang La
  - Gadra City
  - Bhaduria
  - Daudkandi
  - Sanjoi Mirpur
  - Shamsher Nagar
-

## Decorations

The regiment has won 2 Param Vir Chakras, 4 Ashoka Chakras, 10 Maha Vir Chakras, 6 Kirti Chakras, 2 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 78 Vir Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra & Bar, 23 Shaurya Chakras, 1 Yudh Seva Medal, 127 Sena Medals, 2 Sena Medals and Bar, 8 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 24 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 1 PV, 2 PB, 1 PS, 1 AW and 36 Vishisht Seva Medals.

### Param Vir Chakra

- Major Somnath Sharma (Posthumous), **4 Kumaon**, Badgam, Kashmir, Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Major Shaitan Singh, (Posthumous), **13 Kumaon**, Chushul, Ladakh, Sino-Indian War of 1962<sup>[7]</sup>

Major Somnath Sharma, 4th Kumaon, was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous), for the Regiment in October 1947. He was also the first individual, from the three Services, to receive the Param Vir Chakra - India's highest award for gallantry. Major Shaitan Singh, 13th Kumaon, was the second recipient of the Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous), in November 1962.

### Ashoka Chakra

- Major Bhukant Mishra (Posthumous), **15 Kumaon**, June 1984, Operation Blue Star, Amritsar, Punjab<sup>[7][10]</sup>
- Naik Nirbhay Singh (Posthumous), **15 Kumaon**, June 1984, Operation Blue Star, Amritsar, Punjab<sup>[7][10]</sup>
- Subedar Sujjan Singh (Posthumous), **13 Kumaon**, 1994, Operation Rakshak, Zalurah, Kupwara, J&K, India<sup>[7][10]</sup>
- Naik Rambeer Singh Tomar (Posthumous), **15 Kumaon** (on deputation to 26 Rashtriya Rifles), Doda, Jammu and Kashmir<sup>[7][10]</sup>

### Maha Vir Chakra

- Lieutenant Colonel Dharam Singh, Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Sepoy Man Singh (Posthumous), Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Naik Nar Singh (Posthumous), Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Sepoy Dewan Singh, Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Major Malikiat Singh Brar (Posthumous), Indo-Pakistan War of 1947<sup>[7]</sup>
- Brigadier (later General) Tapishwar Narayan Raina, Sino-Indian War of 1962<sup>[7]</sup>

## Colonels of the Regiment

- Maj. Gen. SB Pope DSO, CB - August 28, 1931 to May 31, 1949
- Gen. KS Thimayya Padma Bhushan, DSO - June 01, 1949 to May 08, 1961
- Lt. Gen. Kunwar Bahadur Singh MBE - May 16, 1961 to May 15, 1971
- Gen. TN Raina Padma Bhushan, MVC - May 16, 1971 to May 31, 1978
- Lt. Gen. PN Kathpalia PVSM, AVSM - June 01, 1978 to October 31, 1985
- Lt. Gen. RN Mahajan PVSM, AVSM - November 01, 1985 to July 31, 1991
- Lt. Gen. DD Saklani PVSM, AVSM - August 01, 1991 to December 31, 1993
- Lt. Gen. MM Lakhera PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC - June 01, 1994 to October 31, 1995
- Maj. Gen. Surendra Shah Vrc, VSM - November 01, 1995 to July 31, 2001
- Maj. Gen. AK Sarwate AVSM - August 01, 2001 to February 28, 2003
- Lt. Gen. AS Bahia PVSM, AVSM\*\* - March 01, 2003 to



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- (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-kumaon.htm>)
- The Kumaon Regiment on Bharat-Rakshak (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Army/Regiments/Kumaon.html>)

# Jammu & Kashmir Rifles

Jammu & Kashmir Rifles	
The Regimental Insignia of the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles	
<b>Active</b>	1821–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 battalions
<b>Motto</b>	Prashata Ranvirta (Valour in Battle is Praiseworthy) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>War Cry</b>	Durga Mata Ki Jai (Victory to Goddess Durga) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Decorations</b>	2 Param Vir Chakras, 1 Padma Bushan, 2 Ashok Chakras, 3 Param Vishist Seva Medals, 6 Maha Vir Chakras, 11 Kirti Chakras, 4 Ati Vishist Seva Medals, 34 Vir Chakras, 21 Shaurya Chakras, 1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 97 Sena Medals, 2 Yudh Seva Medals, 31 Vishist Seva Medals, 52 Mentioned-in-Despatches, 243 COAS Commendation Cards and 101 Army Commanders Commendation Cards
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	An oval embracing the sun, the State emblem. The Sanskrit inscription around the sun, which cannot be read on the regimental insignia above, translates as, "Ever Victorious in War" <sup>[3]</sup>

The **Jammu & Kashmir Rifles** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The Jammu & Kashmir State Forces was the only former Princely State Forces of India to be absorbed into the Indian Army as a distinct and separate Regiment. In 1963, the designation was changed to Jammu & Kashmir Rifles. After the conversion, the Ladakh Scouts came under the aegis of the Regiment, where it remained until raised as a separate Regiment in 2002.<sup>[4]</sup>

## History

The Jammu & Kashmir Rifles has a unique regimental history. It was not raised by the British but by an intrepid Indian ruler called Gulab Singh in 1821. Gulab Singh was one of the ablest Generals of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and later became the ruler of the Jammu & Kashmir state.

The Sikhs ruled Kashmir until their defeat by the British. Thereafter, Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu paid Rs. 75 lakhs to the East India Company in 1846 in exchange for Kashmir and some other areas under a treaty later named as 'Treaty of Amritsar'. Jammu and Kashmir as a single entity was unified and founded by Maharaja Gulab Singh on 16 March 1846. Zorawar Singh, a General in the Dogra Corps of the Khalsa Army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, later led daredevil campaigns in northern areas like Ladakh, Baltistan, Gilgit, Hunza and Yagistan, consolidating smaller principalities and making the northern areas a part of the expanding dominions of Maharaja Gulab Singh. Zorawar Singh mounted a breath-taking invasion of Tibet in 1841.

The Maharaja of Kashmir maintained a larger number of State Forces than any other Ruler of an Indian State under the British Raj. These forces were organized into the Jammu and Kashmir Brigades. They comprised one Bodyguard Cavalry regiment, two Mountain Batteries, seven active and one training battalions of Infantry and a Transport unit consisting of both pack and mechanized transport. Several of these units served with distinction on the North-West Frontier of India and overseas during the Great War<sup>[5]</sup>. The state forces fought as Imperial Service troops in both the First and Second World Wars (under their own native officers). They distinguished themselves in East Africa,

Palestine and Burma.

### **Kashmir War of 1947**

The regiment's grimmest hour came during the Pakistani invasion of Kashmir in 1947. It was their heroic stand that gained time for the entry of the Indian Army and thus saved the Kashmir Valley. It may not be out of place to mention that the Indian people largely owe the State of Jammu & Kashmir to the heroic defensive stand made by the outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly motivated, J&K State Force. They paid a steep price in blood and sacrificed over 76 officers, 31 JCOs and 1085 Other Ranks. For their gallant stand they earned three Maha Vir Chakra, 20 Vir Chakras and 52 Mentioned in Despatches.

### **UN Peacekeeping Operations**

A Jammu and Kashmir Rifles battalion was part of the UN force in Cambodia during 1990-93.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **Recruitment**

Much of the Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment and Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment are made of recruits from Poonch, Rajouri and Doda villages.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **Units**

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 16th Battalion - is now the 14th Mech. Infantry<sup>[8]</sup>

## Battle honours

- Defence of Chitral
- The Great War: Megiddo, Sharon, Nablus, Palestine 1918, Kilimanjaro, Beho Beho, East Africa 1914-17
- The Second World War: Kennedy Peak, Defence of Meiktila, Burma 1942-45
- Punch, Skardu, Jammu and Kashmir 1947-48, Battle of Asal Uttar, Punjab 1965, Syamganj, East Pakistan 1971
- Point 5140, 4875, Rocky Knob during kargil War, 1999.

Note: Pre-1948 honours inherited from several battalions of Kashmir State Forces.

## Decorations

### Param Vir Chakra

- Captain Vikram Batra, **13th Battalion** - Kargil, 1999
- Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, **13th Battalion** - Kargil, 1999

### Others

- 1 Padma Bushan
- 2 Ashok Chakras
- 3 Param Vishist Seva Medals
- 6 Maha Vir Chakras
- 11 Kirti Chakras
- 4 Ati Vishist Seva Medals
- 34 Vir Chakras
- 21 Shaurya Chakras
- 1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal
- 97 Sena Medals
- 2 Yudh Seva Medals
- 31 Vishist Seva Medals
- 52 Mentioned-in-Despatches
- 243 COAS Commendation Cards and
- 101 Army Commanders Commendation Cards<sup>[9]</sup>

## References

- [1] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/115-Jak-Rifles.html>
- [2] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/115-Jak-Rifles.html>
- [3] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/115-Jak-Rifles.html>
- [4] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-jkr.htm>
- [5] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-jkr.htm>
- [6] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-jkr.htm>
- [7] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-jkr.htm>
- [8] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/115-Jak-Rifles.html>
- [9] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/115-Jak-Rifles.html>

# Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry

Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry	
The Regimental Insignia of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry	
<b>Active</b>	1947–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 battalions
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Avantipur, Jammu & Kashmir
<b>Motto</b>	Balidanam Vir Lakshanam (Sacrifice is a Sign of the Brave)
<b>War Cry</b>	Bharat Mata Ki Jai (Victory to Mother India)
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Param Vir Chakra, 10 Maha Vir Chakras, 34 Vir Chakras, 4 Shaurya Chakras and 56 Sena Medals. <sup>[1]</sup>
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A pair of crossed muskets

The **Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry** (*JAK LI*) is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army.

The regimental center is in Srinagar's Airport Complex at Avantipur with a small winter setup near Jammu. It's regimental insignia consists of a pair of crossed rifles. The motto of the regiment is **Balidanam Vir Lakshanam** (*Sacrifice is a characteristic of the Brave*).

The regiment mostly consists of volunteers from the state of Jammu & Kashmir. It has 50% Muslims while the rest represent other ethnic groups from the state.<sup>[2]</sup>

## History

In response to the Pakistani invasion of Kashmir in 1947, local militias were raised for specific sectors, such as Jammu, Leh, Nubra, etc. The militias were a paramilitary force under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs and operated on the Line of Control.<sup>[2]</sup> Following the Sino-Indian War of 1962, in 1963 the 7th and 14th Battalions of the J&K Militia were spun off to form the Ladakh Scouts.

The militias conducted themselves with great distinction during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 and earned 3 Battle Honours during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. The troopers of the force felt strongly that they wanted the dignity and privileges of a regular army unit, especially keeping in mind their performance and sacrifice in the recent wars. Keeping this in mind, the then head of the J&K Militia, Brigadier Lekhraj Singh Puar of the Garhwal Rifles, who was on deputation to the MHA from the Indian Army, prepared and presented plans to the Ministry of Home Affairs for conversion of the militia into regular unit on his own initiative. These efforts bore fruit, and in 1972, the J&K Militia was converted to a full fledged Army regiment as the *Jammu and Kashmir Militia* under the Ministry of Defence. Brigadier Puar went on to become the first Colonel of the Regiment. In 1976, the regiment was renamed as the *Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry*.

## Engagements

The JAK LI has served with honor in numerous theaters.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Siachen Conflict

In 1984, JAK LI was deployed to the Siachen Glacier, during Operation Meghdoot. The 8th JAK LI earned great honour by capturing a Pakistani post at 21,000 feet at the Siachen Glacier in 1987. Naib Subedar Bana Singh, 8th JAK LI, earned the Param Vir Chakra for the Regiment in this battle. He is the first and only recipient of the PVC for the Regiment.<sup>[3]</sup> Major VS Minhas won a Vir Chakra, for gallantry displayed during the same engagement.

### IPKF and Sri Lanka

In 1987, JAK LI was deployed to Sri Lanka during Operation Pawan.

### UN Peacekeeping in Somalia

In 1992–93, a unit from JAK LI Regt. ie 2JAKLI was deployed as a part of UNISOM II, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Kargil War

In 1999, JAK LI earned honours in the Kargil War. The Chief of Army Staff made a special instant award of "Unit Citation" to 12th Battalion, The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry for their exceptionally gallant and sterling performance during the battles of Point 5203 on night 10/11 June 1999 and Point 4812 on night 30 June/01 July 1999 in Batalik Sector. The overall performance of the battalion during Operation Vijay was exceptional and marked with exemplary valour and grit in the face of the enemy.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Units

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion
- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion

The following two battalions were formerly a part of this regiment:

- 7th Battalion - Now the 1st Ladakh Scouts
- 14th Battalion - Now the 2nd Ladakh Scouts<sup>[6]</sup>

## Distinctions

### Battle Honours

- Laleali, Indo-Pakistani War of 1971<sup>[2][7][8]</sup>
- Picquet 707, Indo-Pakistani War of 1971<sup>[2][8]</sup>
- Shingo River Valley, Indo-Pakistani War of 1971<sup>[2]</sup>
- Gutrain, Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

### Gallantry Awards


The following personnel of the JAK LI, have received the highest honors for gallantry:

- Naib Subedar Bana Singh, 8 JAK LI, Operation Meghdoot, Param Vir Chakra
- Lt Triveni Singh, 5 JAK LI, Ashoka Chakra
- Lt Keishing Clifford Nangrum, 12 JAK LI, Posthumous, Kargil War, Maha Vir Chakra<sup>[2]</sup>
- Nb Sub Chuni Lal, Ashok Chakra (P), Vir Chakra, Sena Medal (Gallantry)

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- [3] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/116-Jak-Li.html>
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# Assam Regiment

The Assam Regiment	
	
<b>Active</b>	15 June 1941 - Present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Light Role
<b>Size</b>	22 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Happy Valley, Shillong
<b>Nickname</b>	Assam Regiment
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Asam Vikram (Unique Valour)</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Rhino Charge</i>
<b>March</b>	<i>Badluram Ka Badan</i>
<b>Mascot</b>	Uni-horned Rhinoceros of Assam
<b>Engagements</b>	1945(Burma Front) 1971(Chaamb Sector)
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Ashoka Chakra (Class III), 2 Maha Vir Chakra, 3 Kirti Chakra, 5 Vir Chakras, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 2 Padma Shris, 5 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 1 Yudh Seva Medal, 51 Sena Medals and 8 Vishisht Seva Medals
Commanders	
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Brig 'Papa' Pandey Padmabhushan , Brig. Thenphunga Sailo
Insignia	
<b>Colours</b>	Black and Red(Golden stripe added to the flag on the occasion of golden Jubilee)

The **Assam Regiment** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The Regiment consists of 22 battalions; 15 regular units, three Rashtriya Rifles units, three infantry battalions of the Territorial Army and one battalion of Arunachal Scouts. It recruits exclusively from all the Seven Sister States of North-East India.

## Insignia

The Regimental Center of the **Regiment** is situated at Happy Valley, Shillong. It has chosen the rhino as the emblem that is seen on the berets and on the belts that the soldiers (the self-named "Rhinos") wear proudly. The Regimental salutation of Tagra Raho (Keep Fit and Strong) is unique. In India, rhinos are found in the state of Assam which is also known for its tea gardens and oil refineries. The unique greeting adopted by the regiment as Tagda Raho was introduced by **late Maj Gen SC Barbosa who commanded 2 Assam Regiment** in 1960s. Originally he was commissioned in 1 Assam regiment. The Commanding Officer used to enquire about the health of the jawan saying : Tagda Hai ? Invariably, the answer used to be : Tagda Hai Saheb. This greeting became popular in a very short time.



## History

The initial draft of the regiment was drawn from the undivided state of Assam, consisting of the doughty Ahoms who had proved their martial prowess by defeating the Mughals at the Battle of Saraighat and the hardy, tough and cheerful Nagas, Mizos, Kukis, Garos, Manipuris and other tribals. Later, the Adis, nishis, Monpas, other tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, domiciled Gorkhas and Sikkimese were also drafted into the regiment and, today, the regiment can boast of being composed of troops of diverse customs, cultures, languages, traditions and ethos belonging to the seven states of the North-East.

The Regiment was raised on 15 June 1941 in Shillong by Lt Col Ross Howman to meet the claim of the then undivided State of Assam for its own fighting unit and to counter the threat of the Japanese invasion of India. The young regiment soon proved its capabilities within three years of its raising, at the consecutive battles of Jessami, the epic defence of Kohima and the capture of Aradura, all of which were awarded as Battle Honours (now as Pre-Independence Battle Honours) to the Regiment. The Regiment earned high praise for its combat skills in World War II. After independence, the Regiment gained in strength and its battalions have taken part in all wars and counter-insurgency operations with distinction. It was awarded a Battle Honour for its tenacious defence at Chamb in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

Two battalions were part of the Indian Peace Keeping Forces in Sri Lanka in 1988 and a battalion served in Cambodia in 1993 as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Three Territorial Army (TA) battalions and three Rashtriya Rifles (RR) battalions are affiliated with the Regiment. The unique cultural and tribal character of the Regiment makes for a fine combination of cheerful, tough and willing soldiery who excel in operations in mountainous and jungle terrain. The Regimental Colours are Black and Gold (State colours of undivided Assam) and Scarlet (the colour of the Infantry). Badges are of Silver and Black. The side arm is the 'Dah'. The Regimental Language is Hindi. When spoken in the regiment, it is a quaint and unique mixture of Hindi generously sprinkled with words from all the Northeast languages and sounds cryptic to the uninitiated.

The area of Elephant Falls in Shillong was chosen to raise the First Battalion and here, under British instructors, the troops were trained to become a fighting machine. Within six months of its raising, the regiment was ordered to move to Digboi to defend the oil fields. In early 1942, it moved to Ledo and was involved in reconnoitring the alignment for the famous Stilwell Road. In 1944, when the invasion of India by Japan was imminent, the regiment was moved to Jessami and Kharasom to delay the advance of the 31st Japanese division.

**In its very first operation, the regiment won 71 gallantry awards.** In addition, the regiment won six battle honours including Jessami, Kohima, Aradura, Toungoo, Kyaukmyaung Bridge-head and Mawlaik. It was also awarded the theatre honour Burma: 1942-45. Seldom has a regiment won so many gallantry awards, battle honours and theatre awards in a single campaign.

The Regiment, from a small group of three battalions at the time of Independence, has now become 22-battalion strong with 15 regular battalions, three Rashtriya Rifles battalions, three units of Territorial Army and 1 battalion of Arunachal scouts, raised specifically for counter-insurgency operation in Jammu and Kashmir. After Independence, the battalions of the regiment participated in all the conflicts against China and Pakistan and proved their mettle in each one of them. Two of its battalions, 4 Assam and 7 Assam, have had the privilege of being part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka and 1 Assam, 15th Assam has 10th Assam the unique distinction of being part of UN Peace Keeping Force in Cambodia(UNTAC), Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Congo respectively.

## Post-Independence

### Battle Honours

- Chaamb 1971

### Honours & Awards

- 2 Maha Vir Chakra,
- 3 Kirti Chakra,
- 5 Vir Chakras,
- 1 Ashoka Chakra (Class III)(now Shaurya Chakra),
- 14 Shaurya Chakras,
- 2 Padma Shris,
- 5 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals,
- 1 Yudh Seva Medal,
- 51 Sena Medals and
- 9 Vishisht Seva Medals.



Soldiers of Assam Regiment

### Regimental Battalions

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion - Second to None
- 3rd Battalion - The Phantom Third
- 4th Battalion - Formidable Fourth
- 5th Battalion - Fighting fifth
- 6th Battalion - The Sabre Sixth
- 7th Battalion - Striking Seventh
- 8th Battalion - The Head Hunters
- 9th Battalion - The Nimble Ninth
- 10th Battalion - The Thundering Tenth
- 12th Battalion - Daring Dozen
- 14th Battalion - Ferocious Fourteenth
- 15th Battalion - One Five
- 16th Battalion
- 17th Battalion
- 119 Infantry Battalion(T.A)- Assam Terriers
- 165 Infantry Battalion(T.A)- Manipur Terriers
- 166 Infantry Battalion(T.A)- Tezpur Terriers
- 35th Rashtriya Rifles
- 42nd Rashtriya Rifles
- 59th Rashtriya Rifles
- Arunachal Scouts

By 2006 the regiment had grown into a family of 19 battalions, 13 regular units, three Rashtriya Rifles units and three infantry battalions of the Territorial Army. Comprising exclusively troops from all the seven North-Eastern states, the regiment has established itself as a highly respected infantry regiment of Indian Army. In its six decades of martial history, the regiment has served with distinction in different wars and in various operational areas of the

country. It has also been a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka and UN Peace Keeping Force in Cambodia. The regiment has won seven battle honours, three theatre honours, six exclusive unit citations and several gallantry awards. The 42nd Rashtriya Rifles (Assam) formed specially to combat insurgency and terrorism, came into existence at a simple inaugural ceremony at the Assam Regimental Centre, Happy Valley in Shillong. Major General I. J. S Bora, GOC 101 Area, unfurled the Rashtriya Rifles (RR) flag heralding the formal raising of the battalion which would be commanded by Lt. Col. Naresh Razora. Smartly turned out guards of the new battalion presented the major general salute in presence of officers, jawans and their families of 101 area and 42nd RR battalion. While four RR battalions had already been raised in the recent past, the 41st RR battalion (Maratha Light Infantry) was simultaneously raised in Karnataka's Belgaum. Major General Bora said as Meghalaya was relatively peaceful, there was no contemplation of deployment of armed forces at present. The force, raised to relieve the Army of counter insurgency operations, proved its mettle both in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East.

The Phantom Third recently celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The Sabre Sixth has been selected for Ceremonial Duties at Rashtrapati Bhawan for its outstanding work in Counter Terrorist operations. The contingent of the Assam Regiment has won the award for the "Best Marching Contingent" twice in the republic day celebrations held at Delhi in 1995 and 2004. The team of the Assam Regimental Centre won the 'Army Young Blood Firing Championship' in 2005 and stood second in 2006.

The Ferocious Fourteenth has won the Division and Command Football Championships and has fielded four players for the Army Red's & Green's. It has also bagged the first position in the Division Cambrian Patrol Championship 2009 -10 & will be fielding its patrol in the Command Championships later in the year. The thundering tenth has won the division firing and sniper competition for the year 2011-2012.

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# Mahar Regiment

Mahar Regiment	
The Regimental Insignia of the Mahar Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1941–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	19 battalions
<b>Motto</b>	Yash Sidhi (Success & Attainment)
<b>War Cry</b>	Bolo Hindustan Ki Jai (Say Victory to India)
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Param Vir Chakra, 4 Maha Vir Chakra, 29 Vir Chakra, 1 Kirti Chakra, 12 Shaurya Chakra, 22 Vishisht Seva Medals and 63 Sena Medals. <sup>[1]</sup>
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A pair of crossed Vickers medium machine guns, mounted on a tripod with a dagger. The dagger was initially the Pillar of Koregaon, where the combined British and Mahar troops defeated the overwhelming Maratha Army. The pillar was subsequently removed and was replaced with a dagger. <sup>[2]</sup>

The **Mahar Regiment** is an Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army. Although it was originally intended to be a regiment consisting of troops from the Mahars in Maharashtra, the Mahar Regiment is one of the only regiments in the Indian Army that is composed of troops from all communities and regions of India.

## History

### Under Shivaji and the Maratha Empire

The Mahars were recruited by the Marathi king Shivaji as scouts and fort guards in his army. They were also heavily recruited by the British East India Company, at one part forming one-sixth of the Company's Bombay Army. The Bombay Army especially favoured the Mahar troops for their bravery and loyalty to the Colours, and also because they could be relied upon during the Anglo-Maratha Wars. They achieved many successes, most notably on 1 January 1818, when 500 men of the 2nd Battalion 1st Regiment of the Bombay Native Light Infantry along with 250 cavalymen and 24 cannon defeated 20,000 horsemen and 8,000 footsoldiers of the Maratha Army in what would be called the Battle of Koregaon. This battle was commemorated by an obelisk, known as the Koregaon pillar, which featured on the Mahar Regiment crest until Indian Independence. The Bombay Army also saw action in the Indian Mutiny of 1857, and two regiments (the 21st and 27th) joined the revolt under the British.

### The Martial Races theory and disbandment

After the Revolt, the British officers of the Indian Army, particularly those who had served in the First and Second Afghan Wars, began to give currency to the Martial Races Theory. This theory basically held that some races and communities among the Indians were naturally warlike, and more suited to warfare than others. A major proponent of this theory was General Lord Roberts of Kandahar, who became Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in the November 1885. There was a gradual "Punjabisation" of the Indian Army to the detriment of the other communities. The final blow for the Mahar troops came in 1892, when it was decided to institute "class regiments" in the Indian

Army. The Mahars were left out of these class regiments, and it was notified that the Mahars, among with some other classes, were no longer to be recruited. The Mahar troops, who included 104 Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and a host of Non-commissioned officers and Sepoys were demobilised. For years, the Mahars regarded this event as a great betrayal of their loyalty by a government they had steadfastly served for over a hundred years.

## **1892-1941**

After the demobilisation of the Mahar troops, there were many attempts by the leaders of the Mahar community to persuade the Government to let them serve in the Army once again. Petitions to this effect were drafted by ex-soldiers such as Gopal Baba Walangkar in 1894, and Shivram Janba Kamble in 1904. These petitions were supported in principle by the politician and social reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who was opposed to the Martial Races theory. They were also supported by the Indian National Congress, who were also opposed to the recruiting policies of the Army.

The recruitment policies of the British Indian Army continued until the beginning of the First World War in 1914. The War forced the Government to begin more broad-based recruiting, and the Mahars were at last allowed to enlist in the Army. One battalion of Mahar troops, the 111th Mahars was raised in the June 1917. However, the battalion did not see much service during the War, and in 1920 it was merged with the 71st battalion of the Punjab Regiment. Finally, the battalion was disbanded in March 1921, and the Mahars were once again demobilised.

The period between the wars saw increased efforts by the Mahars to persuade the government to let them enlist in the Army. One proponent of Mahar recruitment was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, whose father, Sub. Maj. Ramji Maloji Sakpal had been a soldier in the British Indian Army. However, the proposed reorganisation of the Indian Army that was to occur in the 1930s was postponed because of a lack of funds in the Great Depression. In 1939, the Second World War broke out, and once again, the Army was forced to overlook its narrow minded recruitment policies in the face of harsh necessity.

## **Raising of the Mahar Regiment**

In the July 1941, B. R. Ambedkar was appointed to the Defence Advisory Committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council. He used this appointment to exert pressure within the military establishment for a Mahar regiment. He also appealed to the Mahars to join the Army in large numbers. In October, the Army gave in, and the 1st Battalion of the Mahar Regiment was raised in Belgaum under Lt. Col. HJR Jackson of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles and Sub. Maj. Sheikh Hassnuddin. The 2nd Battalion was raised in Kamptee in June 1942 under Lt. Col. JWK Kirwan and Sub. Maj. Bholaji Ranjane. A cap badge was designed for the Regiment by Capt. EEL Mortlemans, an officer of 2nd Mahar. The badge featured the Koregaon Pillar over the word "MAHAR". The third battalion, the 25th Mahars, was raised in Belgaum in the August 1942 by Lt. Col V. Chambier and Sub. Maj. Sardar Bahadur Ladkojirao Bhonsale, and the 3rd Mahars were raised in Nowshera by Lt. Col. RND Frier and Sub. Maj. Bholaji Ranjane. During the War, the 1st and 3rd Mahars served in the North-West Frontier Province, while the 2nd and 25th Battalions were employed on internal security duties within the country. The 2nd Battalion also saw service in the Burma Campaign as a part of the 23rd Indian Division, where they suffered 5 casualties and had one officer Mentioned in dispatches. They also served in Iraq after the War as a part of PAIFORCE. In 1946, the 25th Mahars were disbanded, along with many other garrison battalions of the Indian Army. Its officers and men were largely absorbed by the other three battalions of the Regiment. In the October 1946, the Regiment was converted into a Machine Gun Regiment, and the Regimental Centre was established at Kamptee. Following conversion of the Regiment to a machine-gun regiment, the cap-badge was changed. The new badge had two crossed Vickers machine guns over the Koregaon Pillar, over a scroll that said "The Mahar MG Regiment". The three surviving battalions of the regiment served as a part of the Punjab Boundary Force, and took part in escorting refugees during the Partition of India.

## The Border Scouts

The Border Scouts were an irregular force formed by the people of the border villages in East Punjab during Partition. Hailing as they did from the erstwhile greater state of East Punjab (which included the present states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh), the force had people hailing from a greater mix of ethnic, religious and caste backgrounds than was the norm in the Indian Army. They did some useful work defending villages from attacks during partition, and as a reward, were given a more permanent character as the East Punjab Frontier Scouts in 1948. They served along the border with Pakistan as border guards, and were regarded as a useful adjunct of the Punjab Armed Police. The unit was redesignated the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Border Scouts in 1951, with recruitment from different North Indian communities. In 1956, the decision to convert this force into Machine-Gun Regiments was taken, and the three battalions were merged with the Mahar Regiment, the only Indian Machine Gun Regiment in existence at the time. They joined the Regiment as the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions of the Mahar Regiment, and it is to these units that the Regiment traces its mixed-class composition. The three Battalions style themselves battalions of the Mahar Regiment (Borders) even today.

## Composition and Recruitment

The class composition of the Regiment also changed. While 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th and 13th battalions were all pure Mahar battalions, the others were mixed classes right down to the smallest sub-unit level. The conversion training started in November 1963 with 1st Mahar and completed in May 1964 with 10th Mahar. The year 1965 saw all the battalions of the regiment gearing up for operations. These included the newly raised 11th and 12th battalions that had the unique composition of Bengalis, Oriyas and Gujratis - the communities that had been stamped as non-martial by the British. Their entry into the Mahar fraternity added strength to national integration-the distinctive feature which the regiment has always been proud of.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Units

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion (Borders)
- 5th Battalion (Borders)
- 6th Battalion (Borders)
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion
- 9th Battalion
- 10th Battalion
- 11th Battalion
- 12th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 14th Battalion (formerly 31st Mahar)
- 15th Battalion (formerly 32nd Mahar)
- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion
- 21st Battalion<sup>[4]</sup>

## Former Battalions

- 25th Battalion (disbanded 1946).
- 16th Battalion (formerly 8th Parachute Regiment) (converted to 12th Mechanised Infantry in 1981)

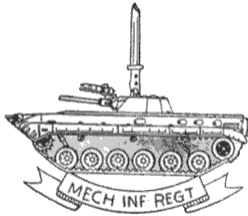
## Allied Units

- 108th Infantry Battalion Territorial Army (based at Saugor)
- 115th Infantry Battalion Territorial Army (based at Belgaum)
- 1st Battalion Rashtriya Rifles
- 30th Battalion Rashtriya Rifles
- 51st Battalion Rashtriya Rifles

## References

- The Martial Races at Country-Data.com<sup>[5]</sup>
- [1] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/114-Mahar-Regt.html>
- [2] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/114-Mahar-Regt.html>
- [3] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-mahar.htm>
- [4] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/114-Mahar-Regt.html>
- [5] <http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-6146.html>

# Mechanised Infantry Regiment




Mechanised Infantry Regiment	
	
<b>Active</b>	1979 - Present
<b>Country</b>	<span><span></span></span> India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Mechanised Infantry
<b>Size</b>	25 Battalions
<b>Regimental Centre</b>	Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Valour &amp; Faith</i>
<b>War Cry</b>	<i>Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai (Victory to Mother India)</i>
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A rifle bayonet mounted on a BMP-1, depicting the infantry and mechanised facets of the Regiment

The **Mechanised Infantry Regiment** is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. It is one of the youngest regiments in the army, and though it was formed as a result of lessons learned in the 1965 Indo-Pak War, to give infantry battalions greater mobility, it was the mastermind of late Gen K Sundarji who had the foresight to cater the needs of

a modern army.<sup>[1]</sup> Initially, some of the older infantry battalions of various regiments were equipped with armoured personnel carriers. The need for something more concrete and viable was felt along with a need to develop a common philosophy with regards to the type of tactics. This necessitated the raising a totally new arm in the Indian Army, resulting in the various mechanised battalions being brought together under a single cap badge as the Mechanised Infantry Regiment in 1979.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Mechanised Infantry Regiment has participated in Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, Operation Rakshak in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir and Operation Vijay in Jammu & Kashmir. It also specialises in UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia, Angola and Sierra Leone. The Regiment has its affiliation to INS Gharial, of the Indian Navy. The The Mechanised Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army has a special distinction of operating even in the high altitude areas of Ladakh and Sikkim.<sup>[1]</sup>

Gen Sundarji was appointed the first Colonel of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment, the post he held till his retirement.

<div>  <b>External media</b> </div>	
<b>Images</b>	
	images of the Mechanised Infantry <sup>[2]</sup> showing the combat vehicles.
<b>Videos</b>	
	Indian Army Mechanised Infantry <sup>[3]</sup> describing the weapons, vehicle and soldiers

## Battalions converted to Mechanised Infantry Regiment

- 1st Battalion (former 1st Bn, The Madras Regiment)
- 2nd Battalion (former 1st Bn, Jat Light Infantry)
- 3rd Battalion (former 1st Bn, 8 Gorkha Rifles)
- 4th Battalion (former 1st Bn, Sikh Regiment)
- 5th Battalion (former 14th Bn, Kumaon Regiment)
- 6th Battalion (former 1st Bn, Garhwal Rifles)
- 7th Battalion (former 1st Bn, Dogra Regiment)
- 8th Battalion (former 7th Bn, Punjab Regiment)
- 9th Battalion (former 7th Bn, The Grenadiers)
- 10th Battalion (former 20th Bn, Maratha Light Infantry)
- 11th Battalion (former 18th Bn, Rajputana Rifles)
- 12th Battalion (former 8th Battalion, Parachute Regiment, (previously 16th Bn, Mahar Regiment)
- 13th Battalion (former 18th Bn, Rajput Regiment)
- 14th Battalion (former 16th Bn, Jammu & Kashmir Rifles)
- 15th to 23rd Battalions (all these 8 battalions are New Raisings, some with highly specialised roles)
- 24th Battalion (former 20th Bn, Rajput Regiment)<sup>[1]</sup>



## References

- [1] Bharat Rakshak :: Land Forces Site - The Mechanised Infantry Regiment (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/99-Mechanised.html>)
  - [2] <http://www.warbirds.in/galleries/wr/Maharashtra/Ahmednagar/MIRC>
  - [3] [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1Uqbfh7n\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1Uqbfh7n_E)
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# Naga Regiment

Naga Regiment	
The Regimental Insignia of the Naga Regiment	
<b>Active</b>	1970–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Line Infantry
<b>Role</b>	Infantry
<b>Size</b>	3 battalions
<b>War Cry</b>	Jai Durga Naga (Hail Durga Naga)
<b>Decorations</b>	1 Maha Vir Chakra, 4 Vir Chakras, 1 Yudh Seva Medal, 1 Vishist Seva Medal, 10 Sena Medals <sup>[1]</sup>
Insignia	
<b>Regimental Insignia</b>	A pair of crossed Naga spears and a dah (a cutting weapon used in Nagaland), with a shield bearing a mithun (deer) head. <sup>[2]</sup>

The **Naga Regiment** is the youngest Regiment of the Indian Army. In 1970, the First Battalion of the Naga Regiment was raised in Ranikhet.

## History

### Formation

During 1960, the delegation of the Naga Peoples Convention put forward a proposal for a separate regiment to fulfill their desire of playing a greater role in the Defence Forces of India. The Naga Regiment was the first infantry regiment to be raised in the post-Independence India. In 1957, when the Naga hills area was simmering with insurgency, a convention of the Naga people took place and it came out with a charter of demands including statehood for Nagaland and a separate entity for the Naga people in the Indian defence forces. Nagaland attained its statehood in 1963 and the Naga Regiment was formed seven years later. Nevertheless, a remarkable fact about its raising was that several ex-militants were given a fair chance to prove their newfound nationalism and made to join the Indian Armed Forces, many of them were directly appointed junior commissioned officers.<sup>[3]</sup> But even before their training could be completed and the recruits were administered oath, trouble began brewing on eastern border of India. Bypassing the training schedule, the Naga Regiment was ordered to move into the concentration areas. And thus the youngest regiment of the Indian Army was pushed into the war with scanty preparedness. Still it held the Tri-colour aloft, it should be attributed jointly to the natural instincts of the Naga warriors and to the inherent valour of Kumaunis, Garhwalis and Gorkhas, the other hill tribes to be drawn into the Naga Regiment.

First Battalion (1 Naga) of the Regiment was raised at the Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet on 01 November 1970 under the command of Lt. Col. R.N. Mahajan, VSM. Being the only battalion, it was then designated as the NAGA Regiment. The manpower to raise this battalion was provided by battalions of Kumaon, Garhwal and Gorkha (3 Gokrha Rifles) regiments. 69 Nagas were enrolled directly from rehabilitation camps of underground Nagas. However, the Regiment was to comprise 50% Nagas and 50% of an equal number of Kumaoni, Garhwali and Gorkhas. Since many Kumaon battalions had been associated with Nagaland, particularly in the years preceding the raising of the Naga Regiment, it was affiliated to the Kumaon Regiment for all regimental matters. The second

battalion (2 Naga) was raised on 11 February 1985 at Haldwani.

The traditional Naga weapons viz the Dao, the Spear and the prestigious Mithun have been integrated into the Regimental Crest. The Regiment's colours are Gold, Green and Red, the gold of the rising sun, the green of Infantry and red the colour of authority among Nagas. 1 Naga was presented with 'Colours' on 06 May 1978 at Dehradun by Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the President of India and 2 Naga was presented with 'Colours' on 10 May 1990 by General V.N. Sharma, PVSM, ADC, the Chief of Army Staff.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Operation Romeo

The second Naga battalion was inducted into Keran sector of Kupwara district, where it was responsible for ensuring the sanctity of approximately 24 kilometres of Line of Control (LoC) and also to counter anti-national elements and their operations. It was in this sector the second Naga battalion participated in one of the landmark operations - Operation Romeo. The goal of this operation was to dominate the LoC. The entire operation was carried out with clockwork precision and without any casualties to Indian troops.

## Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

1 Naga took part in Bangladesh operations and earned a name for the Regiment. It was awarded one Vir Chakra and three Sena Medals.

## Kargil War

The battalion was the first one to be inducted into Operation Vijay in the Drass Sector on 11 May 1999. During this operation, the battalion captured Black Rock, Thums Up, Pyramid (all part of Point 5140), Pimple Hill (later renamed as Naga Hill) and Point 5060. The battalion was awarded with two Vir Chakra and two Sena Medals for their outstanding performance during this operation. The battalion has earned one Maha Vir Chakra, two Vir Chakras, one Yudh Seva Medal, one Vishisht Seva Medal and nine Sena Medals.

## North Bump

During Operation Vijay, the unit performed with distinction and displayed indomitable resolve and valour in the face of the enemy. The renowned warriors of the Naga Regiment, fighting against heavy odds in the Tiger Hill complex, captured North Bump killing 15 Pakistan Army soldiers including one officer, Captain Imtiaz of 69 Field Regiment. The Naga's lost Captain Prem Raj, an artillery Forward Observation Officer and 10 soldiers of their battalion.

## Twin Valleys

It was the role played by the 2 Naga during operation Vijay in Mashkoh valley that made it to win the title **Head Hunters**. The braves of 2 Naga captured Twin Bumps as part of the Point 4875 complex. The battalion raided enemy mortar position resulting in a large number of casualties to enemy troops and captured huge quantities of arms, ammunition, equipment and documents. The unit was once again honoured with unit citation by the COAS. It was within a span of three years and both times in face of enemy that 2 Naga got its both unit citations (The first was awarded by COAS for the excellent job done in counter-insurgency operations in Keran sector in Kashmir valley within a few years of its raising in the year 1997)<sup>[5]</sup>

## Issues

Although two battalions of the Naga Regiment were raised as per the historic 16-point 1960 agreement that facilitated the formation of Nagaland state, as of 2001 there were complaints that there was no proper representation of Naga youths in the regiment, headquartered at Ranikhet in Uttaranchal. Nagaland comes under dispensation category and the education standard required for soldier general duty (GD) category is only class-V standard for tribal candidates.

Although the Naga youths earned accolades in the Kargil War, desertions were also frequent. The Army conducted a special recruitment drive for all category of posts to recruit 325 Naga youths across the State. GOC, Nagaland, Major General R. N. Kapur said at least 3,000 Naga youths would be recruited in the Army, Assam Rifles and India Reserve Battalion this year and hoped the youth would avail the opportunity to join the armed forces.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Units

Currently, the Naga regiment has a strength of 3 battalions. However, the 1st and 2nd Battalion form the part of the Kumaon Regiment.

- 1st Battalion (Bahadur Paltan)
- 2nd Battalion (Head Hunters)
- 3rd Battalion

## Decorations


- 1 Maha Vir Chakra
- 4 Vir Chakras
- 1 Yudh Seva Medal
- 1 Vishist Seva Medal
- 10 Sena Medals<sup>[7]</sup>

## References

Naga Regiment on Bharat-Rakshak <sup>[8]</sup>

- [1] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/117-Naga-Regt.html>
  - [2] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/117-Naga-Regt.html>
  - [3] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-naga.htm>
  - [4] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/117-Naga-Regt.html>
  - [5] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-naga.htm>
  - [6] <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-naga.htm>
  - [7] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/117-Naga-Regt.html>
  - [8] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/117-Naga-Regt.html>
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# The Ladakh Scouts

Ladakh Scouts	
<div></div> <p>Regimental Insignia of the Ladakh Scouts</p>	
Active	1963 – Present
Country	India
Branch	Army
Type	Infantry
Role	Specialized Mountain Warfare Infantry Troops (High Altitude & Glacial Warfare)
Size	5 battalions
Nickname	<i>Snow Warriors</i> or <i>Snow Tigers</i>
War Cry	Ki Ki So So Lhargyalo (Victory to God).
Decorations	1 Ashok Chakra, 11 Mahavir Chakra, 2 Kirti Chakra, 2 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 26 Vir Chakra, 6 Shaurya Chakra, 3 Yudh Seva Medals, 64 Sena Medals, 13 Vishisht Seva Medals, 13 Mentions-in-Dispatches, 67 Chief Of Army Staff commendation cards, 2 Jeevan Raksha Padak <sup>[1]</sup>
Insignia	
Insignia	Ibex Ibex,

The **Ladakh Scouts**, also known as the *Snow Warriors* or *Snow Tigers*, is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army.<sup>[1]</sup> Specializing in mountain warfare, the regiment's primary role is to guard India's borders in the high altitude areas of the Ladakh region, as well as Jammu & Kashmir in general.

Raised as a paramilitary unit, the Ladakh Scouts were converted into an Army regiment in 2000. The Ladakh Scouts are recruited mainly from India's Ladakhi and Tibetan communities and are among the Indian Army's most decorated units. Its soldiers have been honored with over 300 gallantry awards and citations including one Ashok Chakra, ten Maha Vir Chakras and two Kirti Chakras.

## History

In 1948, the **Nubra Guards** were raised from local Ladakhi warriors to patrol India's mountainous border in the Ladakh region.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1952, the Nubra Guards were merged as the 7th Battalion of the **Jammu & Kashmir Militia**, which later became the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) Regiment. The 14th Battalion of the militia was also raised from Ladakh in 1959.

On 1 June 1963, following the Sino-Indian War of 1962, the Ladakh Scouts was formed by spinning off the 7th and 14th battalions of the J&K Militia. The primary role of the unit is reconnaissance and interdiction in the high-altitude border regions.

The Ladakh Scouts was converted from a paramilitary unit to a full infantry regiment on 1 June 2000. Its parent regiment is the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles.

## Units

The regiment consists of 5 battalions with support personnel affiliated to other arms of the army.

## Engagements

### Indo-Pakistani Wars of 1965 and 1971

Units of the regiment have been deployed in combat in every major Indian operation since the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. The Scouts received battle honours in the Western Theatre of the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

### Operation Meghdoot

Units of the Ladakh Scouts were deployed with a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment to capture the Siachen Glacier in April 1984, as a part of Operation Meghdoot.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Kargil War

The Ladakh Scouts were one of the first units to be deployed in action in Operation Vijay. Its units displayed exemplary gallantry and won numerous awards, including a Maha Vir Chakra for Major Sonam Wangchuk. The Scouts were awarded a *Unit Citation* for their gallantry during the battles of Point 5000 on night 05/06 July 1999, Dog Hill on the night 30 June/01 July, and Padma Go on the night 09/10 July 1999, in the Batalik Sector. The citation recognizes the unit's performance with distinction during Operation Vijay and display of *exemplary valour and grit in the face of the enemy*.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Distinctions

### Battle honours

- Turtuk, Indo-Pakistan War of 1971

### Gallantry Awards

Maha Vir Chakra Recipients:

- Major Sonam Wangchuk, Batalik Sector, Kargil War<sup>[2][2]</sup>

Among the awards conferred on the soldiers of the Ladakh Scouts are:

- 1 Ashok Chakra
  - 11 Maha Vir Chakras
  - 2 Kirti Chakras
-

- 26 Vir Chakras
- 6 Shaurya Chakras
- 3 Yudh Seva Medals
- 2 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals
- 13 Vishisht Seva Medals
- 64 Sena Medals
- 13 Mentions-in-Dispatches
- 67 Chief Of Army Staff commendation cards
- 2 Jeevan Raksha Padaks

## Winter Sports

The Ladakh Scouts have produced notable winter sport athletes, including Jamyang Namgial and Tashi Lundup.

## References

- [1] "Ladakh Scouts" (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/rgt-ladakh.htm>). GlobalSecurity.org. .
- [2] "Ladakh Scouts" (<http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplete/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=q2SS7SL4DIY6BgCIF2CvQw==&ParentID=pTysHD2D5n/sfjXrwhyAPA==>). Indian Army. .

# Assam Rifles

Assam Rifles	
<b>Active</b>	1835 – Present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Type</b>	Paramilitary
<b>Role</b>	Internal security
<b>Size</b>	46 Battalions
<b>Headquarters</b>	Shillong
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Friends of the Hill People</i>
Commanders	
<b>Director General Assam Rifles</b>	Lt Gen Rai

The **Assam Rifles** are one of the Paramilitary forces of India. The unit can trace its lineage back to a paramilitary police force that was formed under the British in 1835 called *Cachar Levy*. Since then the Assam Rifles have undergone a number of name changes before the name *Assam Rifles* was finally adopted in 1917.<sup>[1]</sup> Over the course of its history, the Assam Rifles and its predecessor units have served in a number of roles, conflicts and theatres including World War I where they served in Europe and the Middle East, and World War II where they served mainly in Burma. In the post World War II period the Assam Rifles has expanded greatly as has its role. There are currently 46 battalions<sup>[2]</sup> of Assam Rifles under the control of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and they perform many roles including the provision of internal security under the control of the army through the conduct of counter insurgency and border security operations, provision of aid to the civil power in times of emergency, and the provision of communications, medical assistance and education in remote areas.<sup>[3]</sup> In times of war they can also be used as a combat force to secure rear areas if needed.

## History

### Early history

The present day Assam Rifles can trace its origins back to a paramilitary force known as *Cachar Levy* which was established by the British in 1835 in the Assam region. The Assam Rifles boast of being the oldest paramilitary force. With approximately seven hundred and fifty men, this force was formed as a police unit to protect settlements against tribal raids and other assaults as British rule slowly moved towards the north east parts of India.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Indian Armed Forces

	
Triservices Crest.	
Military Man Power	
<b>Active troops</b>	1,325,000 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )



<b>Reserve forces</b>	1,155,000 (7 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Paramilitary forces</b>	1,293,300 (4 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Components</b>	
Indian Army	
Indian Air Force	
Indian Navy	
Indian Coast Guard	
Paramilitary forces of India	
Strategic Nuclear Command	
<b>History</b>	
Military history of India	
<b>Ranks</b>	
Air Force ranks and insignia	
Army ranks and insignia	
Naval ranks and insignia	

Despite problems with equipment and training, the contribution of this force in opening the region to administration and commerce was nevertheless quite significant and over time they have become known as the "...right arm of the civil and [the] left arm of the military" in the region.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1870 these existing elements were merged into three Assam Military Police battalions which were spread out in the Lushai Hills (later 1st battalion), Lakhimpur (2nd battalion) and Naga Hills (3rd battalion). A fourth battalion was later formed Imphal in 1915.

Since then the name of the force has undergone a number of changes, as have the roles that it has been required to perform.

## World War I and interwar years

During World War I, men from what was then known as the *Assam Military Police* were part of the Indian forces that fought in Europe and the Middle East. Over three thousand men from the force were provided to the Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army in this time, earning seventy-six gallantry awards during the conflict including seven Indian Order of Merit awards and five Indian Distinguished Service Medals.<sup>[2]</sup> These men performed with such distinction that the name *Assam Rifles* was assigned in 1917 as recognition of their part in the war.<sup>[2]</sup> Elements of the force were also utilised in India during the war, being used to maintain internal security in order to free up troops from the army for use overseas. During this time, the most notable action occurred in 1917 when columns of the Assam Rifles were despatched to Patna, to restore law and order in the riot-torn city.<sup>[2]</sup>

After the war the force returned to northern India where they were used to maintain security amidst growing civil unrest and disorder. In concert with the British Indian Army, they also undertook a number of expeditions into remote tribal areas along the north-east frontier and into Burma. In 1924 they were sent to Malabar, which was then still part of the Madras Presidency, to carry out operations against the Mopla rebels.<sup>[2]</sup>

## World War II

During World War II, the role of the Assam Rifles evolved once more as they were called upon to undertake even more varied tasks due to their status as both a police and military organisation. This time, however, their service would be undertaken closer to home. After the lightning Japanese advance in 1942, the Assam Rifles fought a number of independent actions behind enemy lines as the task of rear-area defence and rear-guard often fell to them during the Allies retreat into India. Later, as a large influx of refugees fled from the advancing Japanese into India, the Assam Rifles were given the task of managing and organising this mass of humanity.<sup>[2]</sup>

They also organized a resistance group on the Indo-Burmese border to counter the Japanese invasion and to harass the enemy line of communications. This group became known as "Victor Force" (or sometimes V-Force), and the nucleus of it was formed from platoons made up of men from the Assam Rifles. As part of this force, Assam Rifles platoons were used as covering forces during the latter stages of the Burma Campaign. Other elements fought in the defensive "boxes" around Kohima, whilst another, from the 4th Battalion trained as airborne troops and were dropped near the Sittang River behind Japanese lines.<sup>[3]</sup> The 1st Battalion, as part of Lushai Brigade was sent ahead of the rest of the force to provide resistance in the Chin Hills. As a testament to the performance of Assam Rifles men during the war, members of the unit received forty-eight gallantry awards. These included: 3 Members of the British Empire, 5 Military Crosses, 4 Orders of British India, 1 Indian Order of Merit, 13 Military Medals, 15 Indian Distinguished Service Medals and 7 British Empire Medals.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Postwar period

Following the end of the war the five Assam Rifles battalions became part of the civil police under the Assam Inspector General of Police.<sup>[3]</sup> After independence, however, the Indian government assigned the Assam Rifles its own Director General.<sup>[2]</sup> As the numbers of the force and the number of battalions gradually increased, the rank of the force commander was also upgraded until now it is that of Lieutenant General. The present Director General of the Assam Rifles, is Lieutenant General Karan Singh Yadava, of the 3rd Gorkha Rifles.

The role of the Assam Rifles continued to evolve when in 1950 a devastating earthquake hit the Assam region and the force was called in to assist in the reconstruction of the areas and help in the resettlement and rehabilitation of those affected by it.<sup>[3]</sup> Later the force was once again called to undertake a combat role when, during the 1962 Sino-Indian War elements were used to delay the advancing Chinese forces so that the Indian Army could establish its defence lines.<sup>[2]</sup> During this time and since then, the Assam Rifles also maintained their peacekeeping role in the northern areas of India in the face of growing tribal unrest and insurgency. In this environment the maintenance of law and order, countering insurgency and reassuring the people of the region became important tasks for the security forces and initially they fell to the Assam Rifles before the Army assumed control, and then later their experience and goodwill in the region was drawn upon in order to assist the army in conducting these tasks.<sup>[2]</sup> In recognition of the unit's skill in counter insurgency operations, three battalions were deployed on Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka between December 1988 and February 1990.<sup>[3]</sup>

Through its deployment in what has become known as the "tribal belt", the Assam Rifles have developed an ethos that is based primarily upon the notion of extending the hand of friendship with the people of the region despite the troubles that have occurred there.<sup>[2]</sup> This has resulted in their employment in a number of developmental activities in the region as they have worked to bring order and security to it. As such, their role has been further expanded to include the provision of medical assistance and basic education, assisting in reconstruction and agriculture and handling communications in remote areas.

From a force of five battalions in 1947, the Assam Rifles has grown substantially over the years. In 1960 there were seventeen battalions, in 1968 there were twenty-one and now there are forty-six battalions today.<sup>[3]</sup> In addition, the Force has several area HQs, a training centre that processes up to 1,800 recruits at time, and a number of logistics units.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Human rights violations

The force has been accused repetitively for human rights violation in the states of North Eastern India. The custodial rape and murder of Thangjam Manorama of Manipur in July 11, 2004 is one of the many examples of violation of human rights.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Decorations

Members of the Assam Rifles have received the following military decorations since Indian independence:

Award	Times awarded
Ashoka Chakra	3
Vir Chakra	5
Kirti Chakra	31
Shaurya Chakra	120
Param Vishisht Seva Medal	5
Ati Vishisht Seva Medal <sup>[6]</sup>	12
Sena Medal <sup>[7]</sup>	188
Vishisht Seva Medal <sup>[8]</sup>	74
Yudh Seva Medal	1
Mention in Dispatches	10

(Source: *Assam Rifles Honours and Awards* <sup>[9]</sup>).

N.B. Prior to Indian independence members of the Assam Rifles were eligible for British decorations. During World War I and World War II members of the Assam Rifles received many such awards for their actions, although these have not been included here. There have also been numerous civil awards to members of the Assam Rifles. These can be found at the source listed above.

## Rank structure

Assam Rifles Ranks	Equivalent Army Ranks	Equivalent Navy Ranks	Equivalent Air Force Ranks
Director General (Army officer on deputation)	Lieutenant General (Army Commander's Scale)	Vice Admiral (FOC-in-C's Scale)	Air Marshal (AOC-in-C's Scale)
Inspector General (Army officer on deputation)	Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
Deputy Inspector General (Army officer on deputation)	Brigadier	Commodore (IN)	Air Commodore
Commandant	Colonel	Captain (IN)	Group Captain
2I/C	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander (IN)	Wing Commander
Deputy Commandant	Major	Lt. Commander	Sqn Leader
Assistant Commandant	Captain	Lieutenant (IN)	Flight Lieutenant
No Equivalent	Lieutenant <sup>[10]</sup>	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

[11][12][13][14][15][16]

## References

### Notes

- [1] The Assam Frontier Police (1883), the Assam Military Police (1891) and Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police (1913), before finally becoming the Assam Rifles in 1917. See Sharma 2008.
- [2] See History of the Assam Rifles (<http://assamrifles.net/site/aboutus.htm>)
- [3] Sharma 2008.
- [4] See Assam Rifles Training Centre (<http://assamrifles.net/site/training.htm>).
- [5] "INDIA: Torture and murder of a woman by armed forces in India" (<http://humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals/UA-96-2004>). . Retrieved July 28, 2004.
- [6] There has been one instance of a multiple award of the AVSM to the same recipient, that is a Bar being awarded. This is included in this figure.
- [7] There have been four Bars awarded for the Sena Medal to members of the Assam Rifles. These are included in this figure.
- [8] There has been one instance of a Bar being awarded for the VSM to a member of the Assam Rifles. This has been included in this figure.
- [9] [http://assamrifles.net/site/HonorsAwards\\_AssmRifles.aspx](http://assamrifles.net/site/HonorsAwards_AssmRifles.aspx)
- [10] <http://mod.nic.in/6thCPC/PAYSERVICES-notification.pdf>
- [11] [http://careerairforce.nic.in/career\\_opp/caropp\\_officer\\_payperks.html](http://careerairforce.nic.in/career_opp/caropp_officer_payperks.html)
- [12] <http://bsf.nic.in/career.htm>
- [13] <http://news.outlookindia.com/item.aspx?653202>
- [14] [http://indianairforce.nic.in/show\\_page.php?pg\\_id=121](http://indianairforce.nic.in/show_page.php?pg_id=121)
- [15] [http://www.persmin.nic.in/WriteReadData/SV/IPS\\_PayRules2008\\_English.pdf](http://www.persmin.nic.in/WriteReadData/SV/IPS_PayRules2008_English.pdf)
- [16] <https://pcdaopune.gov.in/6cpc.aspx>

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### External links

- Assam Rifles in Global Security site (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/assam-rifles.htm>)
- The Assam Rifles- Sentinels of the East by Lt Col (Retd.) A.K Sam Sharma (<http://frontierindia.net/the-assam-rifles-sentinels-of-the-east>)

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# Indian Army Armoured Corps

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## Indian Army Armoured Corps

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*This article is on the post-independence corps. For the pre-1947 corps, see Indian Armoured Corps.*

The **Indian Army Armoured Corps** is one of the combat arms of the Indian Army. Formed in 1947 from two-thirds of the personnel and assets of the Raj's Indian Armoured Corps. It currently consists of 63 armoured regiments, including the president's bodyguards. The naming of the regiments varies. The terms "Cavalry", "Horse" and "Lancers", which have been dispensed with in the case of units raised post-independence, are historical legacies from the raising and renaming of these units when part of the East India Company's army and/or later the British Indian Army. The Armoured Corps School and Centre is at Ahmednagar. As a matter of tradition, each Armoured Regiment has its own "Colonel of the Regiment", an honorary post for a senior officer who oversees the regimental issues concerning the unit.

### List of Regiments

The list of regiments forming part of the Armoured Corps of the Indian Army is as follows :<sup>[1]</sup>

- President's Bodyguard
  - 1 Horse (Skinner's Horse) "The Yellow Boys"
  - 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
  - 3 Cavalry <sup>[2]</sup> "Flamingoes"
  - 4 Horse (formerly 4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Hodson's Horse) also fondly called "Chor Horse" in the Armoured fraternity for their "unorthodox" ways of making Regimental property.
  - 5 Armoured Regiment. The original 5th Horse (Probyn's) was transferred to Pakistan in 1947. This Indian Army regiment was raised in Jodhpur on December 1, 1983.<sup>[3]</sup> The regiment is based at Patiala and appears to be part of 1st Armoured Division (India).<sup>[4]</sup>
  - 6 Armoured Regiment - Original 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers was transferred to Pakistan in 1947. This Indian Army regiment was raised in 1984.
  - 7th Light Cavalry
  - 8 Cavalry
  - 9 Horse (formerly 9th Royal Deccan Horse)Deccan Horse
  - 10 Armoured Regiment
  - 11 Armoured Regiment
  - 12 Armoured Regiment
  - 13 Armoured Regiment
  - 14 Horse (Scinde Horse)
  - 15 Armoured Regiment
  - 16th Light Cavalry
  - 17 Horse (The Poona Horse) Fakr-e-Hind (The most decorated Armoured Regiment of the Indian Army).
  - 18 Cavalry
  - 19 Armoured Regiment
  - 20 Lancers
  - Central India Horse Positioned as ser 21 in the order of precedence.
  - 40 Armoured Regiment
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- 41 Armoured Regiment - Raised in 1980.<sup>[3]</sup>
- 42 Armoured Regiment Raised in 1981.<sup>[3]</sup> Founding commanding officer Brig Ranjit Talwar (18 Cav) (Retd.)
- 43 Armoured Regiment Raised in 1981.<sup>[3]</sup> First regiment to be equipped with Arjun tank.
- 44 Armoured Regiment Raised in 1981.<sup>[3]</sup> Founding commanding officer Brig D.S. Dhillon (Retd.)
- 45 Cavalry Raised in 1965. Traces lineage to the old 45 Cavalry.<sup>[3]</sup>
- 46 Armoured Regiment Raised in 1982.<sup>[3]</sup> Founding commanding officer Col. P.S. Sandhu (Retd.)
- 47 Armoured Regiment
- 48 Armoured Regiment
- 49 Armoured Regiment
- 50 Armoured Regiment
- 51 Armoured Regiment
- 52 Armoured Regiment
- 53 Armoured Regiment
- 56 Armoured Regiment Raised on 1st Oct 2011....Called "The LION HEARTS". It is the Youngest Armoured Regt .
- 61 Cavalry
- 62 Cavalry
- 63 Cavalry
- 64 Cavalry General Bipin Chandra Joshi, former Chief of the Army Staff, was commissioned into this regiment. He later served as the Colonel of the Regiment.
- 65 Armoured Regiment
- 66 Armoured Regiment
- 67 Armoured Regiment
- 68 Armoured Regiment
- 69 Armoured Regiment
- 70 Armoured Regiment
- 71 Armoured Regiment
- 72 Armoured Regiment
- 73 Armoured Regiment
- 74 Armoured Regiment Lieutenant General Kamal Davar was Colonel of the Regiment in 2001.<sup>[5]</sup>
- 75 Armoured Regiment The only Indian armoured regiment to have been raised on foreign soil during the 1971 Indo-Pak war at Gadra Road (in Pakistan) on 12 Mar 1972. Last unit to hold T-55; second regiment to be reequipped with Arjun tank.
- 76 Armoured Regiment
- 81 Armoured Regiment
- 82 Armoured Regiment
- 83 Armoured Regiment
- 84 Armoured Regiment
- 85 Armoured Regiment
- 86 Armoured Regiment Lieutenant General Kamal Davar was Colonel of the Regiment in 2001.<sup>[5]</sup>
- 87 Armoured Regiment
- 88 Armoured Regiment
- 89 Armoured Regiment
- 90 Armoured Regiment

## Notes

- [1] This list is as per unit serial number but not as per the order of precedence of the Indian Army. In that list The President's Bodyguard is first but is followed by 16 Light Cavalry, 7 Light Cavalry, 8 Cavalry and 1st Horse.
- [2] History of the 3rd Cavalry ([http://www.indianpost.com/viewstamp.php/Alpha/3RD CAVALRY](http://www.indianpost.com/viewstamp.php/Alpha/3RD%20CAVALRY)).
- [3] Web-page on "armoured Corps" at *Bharat Rakshak* (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Armoured.html>), accessed December 2009.
- [4] Globalsecurity.org, 5 Armoured Regiment (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/5-ar.htm>), accessed 23 July 2010
- [5] LT GEN KAMAL DAVAR TAKES OVER AS DIRECTOR GENERAL MECHANISED FORCES (<http://pib.nic.in/archieve/lreleng/lyr2001/raug2001/04082001/r040820011.html>), August 4, 2001>

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# Armoured Regiments (62)

## President's Bodyguard (India)

The **President's Bodyguard** is an elite household cavalry regiment of the Indian Army. It is senior-most in the order of precedence of the units of the Indian Army. The primary role of the President's Bodyguard is to escort and protect the President of India which is why the regiment is based in the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, India. It is equipped as a mounted unit, with horses for ceremonies at the presidential palace and BTR-60 vehicles for use in combat. The personnel of the regiment are also trained as paratroopers and nominally are expected to lead in airborne assaults in the role of pathfinders.



The mounted President's Bodyguard during a state visit by a foreign dignitary.

## History



President's Body Guards coming out of the President's house in their winter ceremonial dress.

The first bodyguard to be raised in India was in 1773 when European troops, already recruited into the East India Company's service as infantry, were earmarked for the role. Since the army of the East India Company had no cavalry of any kind at that point of time, two troops of dragoons and one troop of hussars were raised - the latter becoming the personal bodyguard of the Governor. These were however disbanded in the reorganisation of the army by Robert Clive after his return to India in 1765. By 1772, the Company did not have a single cavalryman in service.<sup>[1]</sup>

President's Body Guard (PBG) is the oldest surviving mounted unit and the senior most regiment of the Indian Army. PBG was raised by Governor Warren Hastings in Sep, 1773. Hastings handpicked 50 troopers from the 'Moghal Horse', which was raised in 1760 by local sirdars, Sirdars Mirza Shahbaz Khan & Sirdar Khan Tar Beg. In the same year, Raja Cheyt Singh of Benaras provided another 50 troopers that took the strength of the unit to 100. The first commander of the unit was Capt. Sweeny Toone, an officer of the Honourable East Indian Company (HEIC), who had Lt. Samuel Black as his subaltern.

The establishment of the unit was as follows: -

- 1 Captain
- 1 Lieutenant
- 4 Sergeants
- 6 Daffadars
- 100 troopers
- 2 Trumpeters
- 1 Ferrier



GGBG was the only Corps of cavalry in the Bengal presidency till 1777 when two Regiments of Cavalry were transferred to the HEIC by Nawab of Oudh. Both the regiments were raised in 1776.

## Titles

President's Body Guard's title kept on changing with the passage of time: -

1773-1780 The Governor's\* Troops of Moghals. Other titles in use were Troops of Body Guard, Governor's Troops of Bodyguards, Troops of Horse guards, Troops of Black Cavalry, Body Troop.

1784 Governor General's Body guards (GGBG)

1859 His Excellency the Viceroy's Body Guards\*\*

1944 44th Divisional Reconnaissance Squadron (GGBG)

1946 Governor General's Bodyguard

1947 After independence, the unit got split between Governor General's Body Guard, India & Governor General's Body Guard, Pakistan.

1950 The President's Body Guard, India. In Pakistan the title remained GGBG till 1956.

## Strength & Ethnic Composition

Strength of the regiment varied throughout its history. Minimum strength of the unit was 50 when it was raised in 1773 but the precise maximum strength of the unit is not known. President of India's website claims a number of 1929 just before the First Sikh war but some historians believe the number to be 469. As per the book "Historical Records of the Governor General's Body Guards" published in 1910, maximum strength of the unit was 529 all ranks on 12th Feb, 1844 just before the first Sikh War. In addition to 529 all ranks, orders were also issued to attach two Rissalahs of Irregular Cavalry, taking the strength of the unit to 730 all ranks.

Ethnic composition of the unit also kept on changing. It started with Muslims (Moghals) from Awadh (Eastern U.P.) when it was raised in 1773. By 1800, Hindus (Rajput & Brahmins) were allowed to join GGBG along with Muslims but the area of the recruitment remained the same, Awadh & Bihar. In 1800, the recruitment pool was changed from Bengal Presidency to Madras Presidency & GGBG was reconstituted with troopers from Madras cavalry & for next 60 years, South Indian Castes formed bulk of the unit. After the Great Mutiny of 1857, center of recruitment of Indian Army was shifted from Awadh & south India to North India. GGBG was no exception & Sikhs were enlisted for the first time in Aug, 1883 & Punjabi Muslims in Oct, 1887. Recruitment of Brahmins & Rajputs ceased in 1895. After that, the recruitment was fixed at 50% Sikhs (Malwa & Majha) & 50% Muslims (Hindustani & Punjabi). Currently Jat, Sikhs & Rajputs are taken in equal number primarily from the states of Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan. Minimum height necessary to be enlisted is 6 feet. Before independence the average height of the troopers was 6 feet 3 inches. **Because of the personality & appearance of the men, popular acronym of GGBG was 'God's Gift to Beautiful Girls'.**

## Battle honours

The President's Bodyguard has the following battle honours:<sup>[2]</sup>

- Java
- Ava
- Maharajpore
- Moodkee
- Ferozeshah
- Aliwal
- Sobraon

all of which, except for "Java", are considered to be repugnant and cannot be carried on regimental colours.



Lt. Col. Mahender Singh, current 2IC of the regiment.

## Operational History

PBG first saw action in 1773-74 when it was deployed against Sanyasis – a band that ravaged the countryside in the guise of mendicants. Its next campaign was against Rohillas in April 1774 in the battle of St. George where Rohillas were defeated completely. The unit was also present during the 3rd Mysore War (1790–92) against Tipu Sultan. During this campaign, it successfully thwarted an assassination attempt on the life of Governor General Lord Cornwallis. In 1801, a detachment consisted of 1 Native officer & 26 other ranks went to Egypt to ride the horses of experimental horse artillery. It marched for 120 miles in the desert in the height of summer. All their horses died & they had to place the guns on camels. They never saw action in Egypt as Alexandria had capitulated by the time, they arrived there.

But all these campaigns did not bring any Battle Honour to GGBG. They earned their first Battle Honour 'Java' in 1811 during the conquest of the island. At present PBG has the unique distinction of being the only surviving unit to carry this honour. In 1824, a

detachment volunteered to sail over kaala paani (Black War, at that time, Hindu soldiers would refrain from sailing over sea for the fear of losing their caste) to take part in the first Burmese War and earned their second Battle Honour 'Ava'. Body Guards received their third Battle Honour 'Maharajpore' for the battle of Maharajpore in 1843 when British intervened in the battle for the succession that erupted in Gwalior after the death of Maharaja Scindia.

PBG fought all the main battles of the First Sikh War & earned four Battle honours. During the 1857 mutiny, Lord Canning himself asked the officers and other ranks to serve without arms as a precautionary measures, which they did in good faith and later, they escorted Lord Canning to the grand Darbar at Allahabad where on 1st Nov, 1858, it was proclaimed that India will be governed by the Crown and title of Viceroy was conferred on the Governor General.

During the WW1, Lord Harding offered the Body Guards as Divisional Cavalry for the Meerut Division, which was going to France. But it was decided that the best use of the Body Guards would be working as trainers for raw remounts of cavalry & artillery. Thus for the entire period of the WW1, GGBG worked as remount training center. However, a detachment of the unit was sent to France as a reinforcement of 3rd Skinner's Horse. During the World War 2, for a brief period of time, GGBG served as 44th Division Reconnaissance Squadron.



Lt. Col. Mahender Singh in summer Ceremonial uniform.

Independence came with partition of the nation & armed forces were also divided in 2:1 ratio between India & Pakistan. GGBG was no exception, so Muslim elements of the unit went to Pakistan & Sikhs and Rajput elements stayed with India. The title of the Body Guard remained GGBG till 26 January 1950 when India became Republic & GGBG became President's Body Guard. The first commandant of the regiment was Lt. Col. Thakur Govind Singh and his adjutant was Shibzada Yakub Singh, who decided to join Pakistan Army. After the division of other assets of the regiment, when it came to gold plated buggey of the Viceroy, both India & Pakistan wanted it. To decide the fate of the buggey, Col. Singh & Sahibzada Yakub Singh tossed a coin & India got the buggey.

After the independence, PBG saw action in all the major wars. It rendered yeoman service in the capitol & helped reinstating confidence in general public. In 1962 Indo-China war, PBG armoured cars were the first one to be airlifted to Chusul. It participated in Op. Ablaze in 1965 indo-Pak war. The regiment served in Siachin glacier where it has been serving till date. A detachment of the regiment was a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Forces to Sri Lanka during 1988-89 & Indian contingents to UN Peace Keeping Forces to Somalia, Angola & Sierra Leon.

## Other Body Guard Units

Before Independence, there were three more Body guard units, one for each Presidency. These units were called Governor's Body guard (and not Governor General's Body Guards). All these units were disbanded in 1947. Here is a short introduction to each unit.

### Governor's Body Guard, Madras: -



Governor General Body Guards, Madras

This was the senior most regiment among the three Governor's Body Guard regiments. Raised in 1778 at Madras with one Sergeant, one Corporal & 12 European troopers & was placed under command of Lt. P. Sullivan. Unlike other Madras Army regiments, GBG, Madras retained its title throughout its history till 1947 when it was disbanded. The strength & composition of the unit, however, kept on changing. In 1778, it had one European troop & in 1781, the strength was raised to 1 European & 1 Native troops. The European troop was disbanded in 1784 & a company of the light infantry was attached. By 1799, strength of the GBG was raised to 100 men & they performed escort duty in Persia & Mysore war. From 1808 to 1820, detachments from different Madras cavalry regiments joined GBG on rotation.

The regiment took part in third Maratha War (1817–1819) where its charge along with 6th Bengal Light Cavalry changed the course of the war & considered as the decisive factor in winning the war. During the war, the regiment earned its only Battle Honour 'Seetabuldee' for the

relief of Nagpur Residency. GBG, Madras also took part in the First Burma war (1824–1826), where it rescued the advance guard which was surrounded by a large body of enemy force at Pagan. During the First World War, the regiment served as a remount training center and also patrolled the beaches during the bombardment of Madras by a German ship Emden. A combined force was also formed from detachment from Bombay & Madras Body Guards and was sent to serve in France.

The Governor's Body Guards, Madras also received a standard from Lord Willingdon in March 1924 bearing its only Battle Honour 'Seetabuldee'. At the time of its raising, the unit only had European troops. But 1781 onwards, South Indian classes dominated the regiment for most of the time, especially Deccani & Madrasi Muslims. In 1947, Unit had Rajputs from Rajasthan & Jats from Eastern UP & Punjab.

### Governor's Body Guard, Bombay

The unit was raised on 22 March 1865 in Poona from a selected body of troopers of a disbanded unit, The Southern Mahratta Horse(SMH), which was first raised in 1850. Though the unit was re-organized twice in 1895 & 1938 but there was no change in its title. It also retained its title throughout its existence till 1947 when it was disbanded. In 1865, it had mahratta troopers only from SMH but later Sikhs, Deccani Muslims & Punjabi Muslims were also recruited in the unit.



Governor General Body Guards, Bombay

## Governor's Body Guard, Bengal

In 1912, capitol of India was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi & the Viceroy, along with Governor General's Body Guard, moved to Delhi and Bengal got the status of the Presidency just like Bombay & Madras. At that time, Capt. Rivers Berney Worgan of 20th Deccan Horse raised Governor's BG, Bengal from volunteers from different Bengal cavalry regiments. This was the youngest unit among three GBG units. GBG, Bengal also retained its title throughout its existence & was also disbanded in 1947. Only Punjabi Muslims & Rajputs were recruited for the unit. Since GBG, Bengal came into existence in 1912, there is no photo of the unit by Fred Bremner.

When it came to uniform, all three GBG units followed the pattern of Governor General's Body Guards and they just added few articles like cummerbunds and plastrons.

## Standards, Guidons & Banners



Banner of Lord Reading - First ever banner presented to PBG.

In 1779, Honourable East India Company started issuing Standards to Indian Cavalry regiments. In 1800, GGBG was presented with its first Standard by Marquess Wellesley at the conclusion of his Review of the Body Guard. In 1815, the Countess of Moira & London presented a standard to the newly raised squadron. Two more Standards were presented to the newly raised squadrons of the Body Guards in 1844, when the strength of the regiment was highest. Standards were abolished in regiments of Indian Cavalry in 1864 & in 1931, a Guidon was presented to the Body Guards, which was last carried on escorts in 1936.



Dr Rajender Prasad presenting his banner to PBG.

Two Silver state Trumpets with Banners were presented to the Body Guards by Lord Reading in 1923 on the 150th anniversary of the raising of the unit. One banner represented Star of India with the Battle Honors of the regiment (see photo SILVER TRUMPET) and the other banner carried Coat-of-Arms of the viceroy. Each Successive Viceroy presented a banner to the Body Guard on assuming office, banners of past viceroy's being kept in the custody of the regiment. The practice is in place till date & every president present a silver trumpet to the regiment – the only difference being replacement of the coat-of-arms of Viceroy with the monogram of the President.



Banner of Dr Rajender Prasad - First President of India.





Dr Rajender Prasad with PBG on the streets of old Delhi.

First trumpet with banner by the President of Republic of India was presented by Dr. Rajender Prasad on 14 May 1957. It had maroon background, emblem and crest in gold thread. The design incorporated the initials of Dr. Rajender Prasad in Devnagri script in the center & four emblems in gold in all four corners of the banner, from the Personal Standard of the President. The Personal Standard of the then President, Dr. Rajender Prasad was presented to the regiment on 18th Jan, 1958 by the President himself. In Nov, 1958, President Rajender Prasad presented new Regimental Standard to the PBG, the previous Regimental Standard had been laid up after India became republic. Old Regimental Standard still rests in the Regiment's Officer's mess.

When the 2nd President Dr. Radha Krishnan assumed office, he presented his banner to the PBG on 21st Oct, 1962. His banner had grey background and emblem and crest in gold thread. The design incorporated his initials in Devnagri script in the center & four emblems in gold in four corners, from the Personal flag of the President. New President's Standard of the Body Guard & the Regimental Standard were awarded by the President Dr. Radha Krishnan on Nov 11th, 1963. The Regimental Standard is dark blue in colour with Regimental crest in the center surrounded by the lotus flowers & Ashoka leaves. Five scrolls on either side of the crest are for the Battle Honours & Standard bears the motto "Bharat Mata ki Jai".

## Present status

In 2003, the President's Bodyguard had an establishment of 7 officers, 15 NCOs, and 140 enlisted men, for a total strength of 180 men. Throughout its history, the Bodyguard has varied in size from 50 men when first raised, to 1,929 men in 1845. However, it was usually around squadron size, or about 130 men.



Col. T. S. Mundi, current CO of the regiment.

The current commanding officer of the regiment Colonel TS Mundi is from 45th Armoured Regiment. Lt. Col. Mahender Singh of 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) is Second-in-Command of the regiment. The medical officer of the regiment is Major Surendra Poonia of Special Forces. He is also a international level Powerlifter & has represented India in Croatia & Spain during World Medical Games where medical professionals from all over the world came to participate. Major Poonia won 1 Gold, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze medal in Croatia in 2010 and 2 Gold, 2 Silver & 1 Bronze in Spain in 2011. All officers of the PBG are handpicked by Indian Armoured corp and are

officers of different cavalry regiments having outstanding career. By tradition, the CO has always been of Brigadier or Colonel rank. He is assisted by Majors, Captains, Risaldars and Daffadars. Soldiers hold the ranks of Sowar or Naik. Recruitment to the Regiment in India now is in equal share, to Sikhs, Jats and Rajputs, with officers and administrative staff from all over India.



Major Surendra Poonia after winning gold medal in Croatia.



Major Surendra Poonia with the President of India, Mrs Pratibha Devi Singh Patil.

## References

- [1] Jackson, Major Donovan (1940). *India's Army*. London: Low, Marston. pp. 1–8.
- [2] Singh, Sarbans. *Battle Honours of the Indian Army 1757 - 1971*. New Delhi: Vision Books. ISBN 81-7094-115-6.

## External links

- President's Bodyguards - from the official site of the President of India (<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/presidentsbodyguards.html>)
- The President's Bodyguard (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Infantry/219-PBG.html>)

(<http://www.hindu.com/2010/07/18/stories/2010071857820300.htm>) (<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/bodyguard-shows-his-mettle/647692/>) (<http://epaper.indianexpress.com/9651/>) (<http://epaper.indianexpress.com/11-August-2011?show=clip#page=25:w=760:h=479:l=3:t=1729>)

# 1st Duke of York's Own Skinner's Horse

1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse)	
Skinner's Horse party, folio from 'Reminiscences of Imperial Delhi', an album by Sir Thomas Metcalfe, 1843.	
<b>Active</b>	1803 - 1946, and to date
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	United Kingdom (till 1947) India (post 1947)
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army (till 1947) Indian Army (post 1947)
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Nickname</b>	Yellow Boys
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>First Afghan War</b> Battle of Ghazni Battle of Jellalabad Battle of Kabul (1842) Bhurtpore 1842 <b>First Sikh War</b> Battle of Moodkee Battle of Ferozeshah Battle of Aliwal Battle of Sobraon <b>Second Sikh War</b> Battle of Ramnagar Battle of Chillianwallah Battle of Gujrat <b>Second Afghan War</b> Kandahar 1878 - 80 Afghanistan 1878 <b>Boxer Rebellion</b> Battle of Peking <b>World War I</b> France and Flanders Defence of Gumboz <b>World War II</b> East African Campaign Battle of Keren Amba Alagi Western Desert Campaign Agordat Abyssinia Senio Flood Bank Italian Campaign
Commanders	
<b>Colonel of the Regiment</b>	George VI of the United Kingdom 1937 - 1950
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Jmes Skinner



The **1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse)** was a unit of the British Indian Army from 1922 to independence and thereafter a unit of the Indian Army.

Its foundation was when it was raised in 1803 as Skinner's Horse by James Skinner (Sikander Sahib) as an irregular cavalry regiment in the service of the East India Company, the regiment became (and remains) one of the seniormost cavalry regiments of the Armoured Corps of the Indian Army.

There were two regiments of Indian Cavalry raised by Colonel James Skinner in 1803. They became the 1st Bengal Lancers and the 3rd Skinner's Horse. On the reduction of the Indian Army in 1922, they were amalgamated and became **Skinner's Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry)**. The old 1st Lancers wore yellow uniforms (unique in the world) and the old 3rd wore blue. Each regiment had the full-dress (mounted) long 'Kurta' worn with a turban and cummerbund, also a full-dress (dis-mounted) or levee, dress. These were not in general use after 1914 but could still be worn by officers on special assignments (e.g. as an aide-de-camp). The mess jacket and waistcoat of the old 1st Bengal Lancers was adopted by the 1922 regiment of Skinner's Horse and was the cold weather mess dress until 1939. All six of these uniforms are in the collection of the National Army Museum.

## Early history

After formation in 1803 the regiment was involved in a number of the campaigns on the Asian sub-continent, notably the First Afghan War, the Second Afghan War, the First Sikh War and the Second Sikh War. It was first regiment sent overseas during the Boxer Rebellion and participated in the Battle of Peking.

## World War I

The regiment was at Meerut when the First World War broke out. The regiment was a part of the 7th (Meerut) Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Indian Cavalry Division. The brigade received orders to mobilise on October 24, 1914.

The regiment was in France till August 1916. It saw extensive action in many parts of France. It was awarded the battle honours France and Flanders for its fine performance. It was sent to Mesopotamia as a part of the 7th Meerut Cavalry Brigade Headquarters. The regiment was then ordered back to India where it concentrated in Rawalpindi in August, 1916 for operations in Afghanistan.<sup>[1]</sup> A detachment of the regiment was tasked to guard the post at Gumboz.

## Between the wars

After World War I, the British Indian Army was scaled down. On May 18, 1921, two regiments were amalgamated at Sialkot with the new title of the 1st Duke of York's Own Skinner's Horse.<sup>[1]</sup> The 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers which had been only Muslims and the 3rd Skinner's Horse consisted of one squadron each of Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs and Rangars (Muslim Rajputs). After the amalgamation, the regiment would only consist of only three Squadrons: Rajputs, Rangars and Jats. The Sikh Squadron, which had been part of the 3rd Skinner's Horse for 72 years, was disbanded.<sup>[1]</sup>

Each of the squadrons was equipped with one Hotchkiss gun and with .303 Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifles. The machine gun troops of the Headquarters Squadron were equipped with the .303 Vickers machine gun. The regiment acquired the status of a regular force of the British Indian Army and was equipped with the latest weapons which helped in later campaigns across the globe.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## World War II

At the beginning of World War II the regiment was still mounted, but was quickly converted to act as a mechanised reconnaissance regiment and was attached to the 5th Indian Division and when the division was sent to the Sudan, formed part of Gazelle Force. During the rest of the war the regiment was attached variously to the 4th Indian Infantry Division; the British 10th Armoured Division, the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade and the 10th Indian Infantry Division. The regiment fought in East Africa, North Africa and Italy and was awarded battle honours for Agordat, Keren, Amba-Alagi, Abyssinia, Senio Flood Bank and Italy.<sup>[1]</sup> The senior Pakistani politician Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan (1915-1998), who served with Skinner's Horse in Sudan/Africa during the Second World War, has written a brief but memorable account of the regiment's service there, in his memoirs, "The Nation that Lost its Soul" (Lahore: Jang Pubs, 1995).



An Indian Pattern Carrier Mk IIA named 'Dhar IV', North Africa, 10 April 1942. Possibly Skinner's Horse by the Divisional Emblem

## Post World War II

The regiment was switched to tanks in 1946, receiving the Stuart tank, and a year later Churchills. In 1947 with Indian Independence the regiment became part of the Indian Army Armoured Corps. The first Indian commander was Lt Col RM Bilimoria, and the regiment was stationed at Ahmadnagar. The regiment took part in the Hyderabad Police Action in 1948, following which action it stopped the use of Stuart tanks. The Churchill tank remained in use until 1957, after which the regiment was equipped with Sherman Mk IV's. Eight years later in 1965 the regiment converted to the T-54 and then to the T-55. In 1979 the regiment converted to the T-72 tank.

James Skinner (who raised the regiment) built St. James' Church, Delhi. In 2003, a special service was held there to commemorate the bicentenary of the regiment.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Name Changes

Like all regiments of the Indian Army, the 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse) underwent many name changes in their history.

- 1823 1st (Skinner's) Local Horse
- 1840 1st Irregular Cavalry (Skinner's Horse)
- 1861 1st Regt. of Bengal Cavalry
- 1896 1st Regt. of Bengal Lancers
- 1899 1st (The Duke of York's Own) Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1901 1st (Duke of York's Own) Bengal Lancers (Skinner's Horse)
- 1903 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse).
- 1921 1st Duke of York's Own Skinner's Horse.
- 1947 1st Horse (Skinner's Horse)

## Notes

- [1] "global security" (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/skinners-horse.htm>). . Retrieved 29 June 2008.
- [2] Bicentennial plaque at St James' Church (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/markbowyer/1422633648/>)

## References

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- J. Baillie Fraser (editor): *Military Memoir of Lieut. Col. James Skinner*.
- Luscombe, Stephen; Griffin, Charles. "Land Forces of the British Empire: 1st Bengal Lancers (Skinner's Horse)" (<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/indiancavalry/skinners.htm>). Archived (<http://web.archive.org/web/20070927193450/http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/indiancavalry/skinners.htm>) from the original on 27 September 2007. Retrieved 2007-08-31.

## Further reading

- *Sikandar Sahib* by Denis Holman
- *Skinner's Horse* by Christopher Rothero
- *Sworn to Die* by Lt-Col M A R Skinner
- *A Short History of the 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse), (1803 - 1908)* by Major H Roberts
- *Skinner's Horse*, by Philip Mason. Harpercollins. 1980. ISBN 0-06-013036-9.

## External links

- Cavalry Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>)

## 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)

2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)	
<b>Active</b>	1809 - 1946
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	Great Britain
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Nickname</b>	Gardner's Horse
<b>Engagements</b>	Nepal War <b>World War One</b> Battle of the Somme Battle of Bazentin Battle of Flers Courcellette Hindenburg Line Battle of Cambrai <b>World War II</b> Battle of Gazala
Commanders	
<b>Colonel-in-Chief</b>	King Edward VII (1904)

The **2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)** was a cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army raised in 1809. It served in the Nepal and First World Wars. During the reconstruction of the British Indian Army in 1922 it was amalgamated with the **4th Cavalry**.

### Early history

The regiment was raised in 1809 by William Linnæus Gardner who had previously served with the 74th Highlanders; it first saw service in the Nepal War of 1815. Like all regiments of the Indian Army, the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) underwent many name changes in various reorganisations. (They are listed below):

### World War I

The regiment was sent to France in World War I as part of the Mhow Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Indian Cavalry Division. It was brigaded with the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons and the 38th King George's Own Central India Horse<sup>[1]</sup> Once in France its personnel were called upon to serve in the trenches as infantry. The high number of officer casualties suffered early on had an effect on performance. British officers who understood the language, customs and psychology of their men could not be quickly replaced, and the alien environment of the Western Front had some effect on the soldiers.<sup>[2]</sup> During their time on the Western Front the regiment was involved in the Battle of the Somme, Battle of Bazentin, Battle of Flers Courcellette, the Advance to the Hindenburg Line and the Battle of Cambrai. In February 1918 they left France for Egypt, joining the 4th Cavalry Division in the Desert Mounted Corps. From May 1918 the Regiment took part in General Allenby's campaign in Palestine. On 20th September 1918 during the Battle of Megiddo (Armageddon) during Allenby's advance on Jerusalem, the 2nd Lancers, commanded by Captain, temporary Major and Acting Lt. Colonel, Douglas Davison launched an improvised cavalry charge which

broke the Turkish lines, destabilised the defence, and paved the way for victory instead of stalemate before Jerusalem. One squadron, on the initiative of its commander, moved on to capture the village of El Afuleh, along with around 100 German personnel, aircraft, trucks and railway stock. Capt. D.S. Davison was awarded the DSO for his part in this battle. The Regiment returned to India in December 1920.

## **Victoria Cross**

The Regiment's only Victoria Cross was awarded during World War I to Gobind Singh (7 December 1887 - 9 December 1942) a Lance-Daffadar (corporal) in the 27th Light Cavalry attached to the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse). On 12 December 1917, east of Peizieres, Singh volunteered three times to carry messages between the regiment and brigade headquarters, a distance of 1.5 miles (2.4 km) over open ground which was under heavy fire. He succeeded in delivering the messages, although on each occasion his horse was shot from under him and he was compelled to finish the journey on foot.

## **Albert Medal**

The Albert Medal is awarded for "daring and heroic actions performed by mariners and others in danger of perishing, by reason of wrecks and other perils of the sea". It was awarded on 15 March, 1919 to Trooper Mangal Sain, 2nd Indian Lancers (Gardner's Horse) at Beirut, Lebanon. Whilst guarding a party of Turkish POWs who were being allowed to swim, he saved a prisoner and a British soldier from drowning.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **World War II**

The regiment served in the Western Desert Campaign during World War II as part of the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade, 7th Armoured Division. It was brigaded with the 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry and the 11th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force). It also supplied men for the Indian Long Range Squadron.

In 1941 the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade, during the Battle of Gazala, formed the southernmost point of the Gazala Line near Bir Hacheim. On 27 May 1942, Italy's Ariete Armoured Division overran the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Regiment's name changes**

- 1809 Gardner's Horse
  - 1823 2nd (Gardner's) Local horse
  - 1840 2nd Irregular Cavalry
  - 1861 2nd Regt. of Bengal Cavalry
  - 1890 2nd Regt. Of Bengal Lancers
  - 1901 2nd Bengal Lancers
  - 1903 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
  - 1922 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), retained old name after amalgamation
  - 1935 2nd Royal Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
  - 1947 To Indian Army upon Partition
  - 1950 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) upon India becoming a Republic
-

## References

- [1] "cwgc.org" (<http://www.cwgc.org/ypres/content.asp?id=33&menu=subsub>). .
- [2] Haythornthwaite P.J. (1992). *The World War One Sourcebook*, Arms and Armour Press.
- [3] "1914-1918" ([http://www.1914-1918.net/albert\\_medal.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/albert_medal.htm)). .
- [4] Mitcham, W. S., Mitcham Jr., W. S. (2007). *Rommel's Desert War: The Life and Death of the Afrika Korps*. Stackpole Books. ISBN 0-8117-3413-7

## Further reading

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- Gaylor, J (1992). *Sons of John Company: The Indian and Pakistan Armies 1903- 1991*. Stroud: Spellmount Publishers Ltd. ISBN 978-0-946771-98-1
- D.E. Whitworth (2005) (Paperback edition) *History of the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) from 1809-1922*. Naval & Military Press Ltd. ISBN 978-1-84574-316-1

## External links

- Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>)

## 3rd Cavalry

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3rd Cavalry	
<b>Active</b>	1922 - 1946
<b>Country</b>	British India
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Equipment</b>	Horse
<b>Engagements</b>	First Afghan War Second Afghan War North West Frontier World War I Mesopotamian campaign World War II
<b>Battle honours</b>	Afghanistan-1879-80 Mesopotamia-1916-18 North Malaya Central Malaya Malaya-1941-42

The **3rd Cavalry** was a regular cavalry Regiment in the British Indian Army formed from the **5th** and **8th Cavalry** regiments in 1922.

The which served on the North West Frontier and during World War I and World War II.

### Early history

The 3rd Cavalry was formed from two older Regiments the 7th Irregular Cavalry which was raised in 1841 at Bareilly and the 17th Cavalry which was raised at Sultanpur in 1846.<sup>[1]</sup> Often re-designated, by the turn of the century they were called 5th Cavalry and 8th Lancers. The two regiments serving in India and abroad, saw action in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Mesopotamia and Palestine earning Battle Honours Afghanistan 1879-80 and Mesopotamia 1916-18. they were amalgamated in 1922,<sup>[1]</sup> to form the 5th/8th Cavalry, re-designated in 1923 as 3rd Cavalry, which was amongst the first Regiments to be Indianised.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## 5th Cavalry

Raised at Bareilly in 1841 as a result of the First Afghan War the regiment also served in the Second Afghan War between 1878 - 1880. Like all the regiments of the Indian Army, the 5th Cavalry underwent many name changes in the various reorganisations. They are listed below:

- 1841 7th Irregular Cavalry
- 1861 5th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1901 5th Bengal Cavalry
- 1903 5th Cavalry.

## World War I

At the start of World War I the 5th Cavalry was part of the 4th (Rawalpindi) Infantry Brigade in October 1916 they transferred to the 1st (Peshawar) Division for service on the North West Frontier until October 1917 when they left to take part in the Mesopotamian campaign .<sup>[2][3]</sup>

## 8th Lancers

The 8th Lancers were the last regiment to be raised before the Indian Mutiny. They served in Peshawar in 1857 and in the Second Afghan War. They were issued with lances in 1899 to become the 8th Bengal Lancers, this title was later changed to the 8th Lancers. Like all the regiments of the Indian Army, the 8th Lancers underwent many name changes in the various reorganisations. They are listed below.

- 1846 17th Irregular Cavalry
- 1847 18th Irregular Cavalry
- 1861 8th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1900 8th Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1901 8th Bengal Lancers
- 1903 8th Lancers

## World War I

During World War I the 8th Lancers were part of the Jhansi Brigade, at Mhow under the command of Major General Townshend the brigade consisted of the:

- 8 Lancers
  - 38th Central Indian Horse
  - 2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment
  - 10th Jats
  - 99th Decan Infantry
  - 107 Pioneers
  - 116 Mahratta
  - 60 Company RGA
-



## World War II

In 1941, whilst still in the process of being equipped with armoured cars, 3rd Cavalry now part of the 11th Indian Infantry Division, was deployed to Malaya to counter the Japanese advance. They were involved in the battles at Taiping, Perak, Sungei Pattani, Penang Island, Perak River and the Battle of Slim River where two Indian Brigades were annihilated by the Japanese. The Regiment was then captured by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore and went into captivity until the end of the war.<sup>[4]</sup> For the Regiments service in Malaya it was awarded the Battle Honours "North Malaya" and "Central Malaya" and Theatre Honour "Malaya 1941-42".<sup>[1]</sup>

[1]

## References

- [1] "india post" ([http://www.indianpost.com/viewstamp.php/Alpha/3RD CAVALRY](http://www.indianpost.com/viewstamp.php/Alpha/3RD%20CAVALRY)). .
- [2] "orbat.com" (<http://orbat.com/site/history/historical/india/army1914.html>). .
- [3] "1914-1918" ([http://www.1914-1918.net/Peshawar\\_div.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/Peshawar_div.htm)). .
- [4] Konstam. The Indian Army 1914-1947.p40


## Further reading

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## External links

- Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>)
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# 4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Hodson's Horse

4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Hodson's Horse	
	
<b>Active</b>	1857 – present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown India
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Nickname</b>	The Flamingoes
<b>Anniversaries</b>	Cambrai Day
<b>Battle honours</b>	Delhi Lucknow Suakin 1885 Chitral Punjab Frontier <b>World War I</b> France and Flanders 1914–18 Battle of Givenchy 1914 Battle of the Somme 1916 Battle of Bazentin Battle of Flers Courcellette Battle of Cambrai 1917 Khan Baghdadai Mesopotamia 1916–18 Battle of Megiddo (1918) Battle of Sharon Capture of Damascus Palestine 1918
Commanders	
<b>Notable commanders</b>	William Stephen Raikes Hodson Osmond Barnes

**Hodson's Horse** is a cavalry regiment which originated as part of the British Indian Army. It was raised by Brevet Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, and exists today as the 4th Horse Regiment in the Indian Army. The first risala or troop was raised by Risaldar-Major Man Singh <sup>[1]</sup>.

The force was raised as an irregular cavalry regiment to assist with putting down the rebellion, and continued as part of the British Indian Army. The official designation has changed several times since the regiment's inception in

1857. In 1859, the regiment was split up into two regiments which survived broadly as the 9th Bengal Lancers and 10th Bengal Lancers. In 1878, the 10th Bengal Lancers came to be known as the "Duke of Cambridge's own." In 1921, the British decided to cut down on the number of cavalry regiments, and re-amalgamated the two as the 10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse). The regiment fought at the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Cambrai in the First World War. It still recalls the latter as the regiment's most splendid battle, and celebrates Cambrai Day every year.

The regiment is now an armoured regiment of the post-independence Indian Army.

## Name changes

- 1857 Hodson's Horse
- 1858 2nd Regiment of Hodson's Horse
- 1861 10th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1864 10th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry (Lancers)
- 1874 10th Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1878 10th Bengal (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers
- 1901 10th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Bengal Lancers (Hodson's Horse)
- 1903 10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse)

## Notable officers

- Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson , Commanding officer on formation.
- Colonel Osmond Barnes, commanded 10th Bengal (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers and was Chief Herald of India
- General Sir Henry Dermott Daly
- Risaldar-Major Man Singh, raised the first troop or risala
- Risaldar-Major Mir Dad Khan, Tareen, father of Pakistani general and president Ayub Khan.

## Photographic image, 1858



*British & Native Officers of Hodson's Horse, 1858 by Felix Beato*

This is a photograph about whose subjects there is disagreement in reputable academic circles. (1) [www.britishempire.co.uk](http://www.britishempire.co.uk) states the Europeans to be: Lt. Clifford Henry Mecham (standing); Major Henry Dermot Daly (seated); The Sikh officer standing at the far left with long beard is given as Man Sing; the Sikh seated on floor as Jai Singh. (2) National Army Museum, London, names the European officers as: Lt. Clifford Henry Mecham (standing); Asst. Surgeon Thomas Anderson (seated). (3) The Bridgman Art Library gives the European officer seated as Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson; officer standing: Lt. McDowell and seated on the ground is Sikh officer Risalder major

Man Singh <sup>[2]</sup>. The attribution to Hodson is surely incorrect, unfortunately, as there is apparently otherwise only one extant image of this famous officer, the engraving printed as frontispiece to his biography "Rider on a Grey Horse", by B.J. Cork, 1958. There appears to be no disagreement as to the title of the photograph, or its year. Reputable officers : Major Bhupinder Singh, Mahavir Chakra, posthumous. 1965 Indo Pak war.

## References

- Kempton, Chris. *A Register of Titles of the Units of the H.E.I.C. & Indian Armies 1666–1947*.
- Gaylor, John. *Sons of John Company: The Indian and Pakistan Armies 1903–1991*.

## External links

Follow this link to view the uniforms of the late 19th Century

- <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>

## References

[1] <http://www.dnw.co.uk/medals/auctionarchive/viewsspecialcollections/itemdetail.lasso?itemid=47817>

[2] <http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/indiancavalry/9thblmansingh.htm>

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# 7th Light Cavalry

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7th Light Cavalry	
<b>Active</b>	1784–
<b>Country</b>	British India (1784–1947) India (1947–)
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown India
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Equipment</b>	Horse
<b>Engagements</b>	Third Mysore War Fourth Mysore War Pindari War World War I World War II
<b>Battle honours</b>	Mysore Seringapatam Mahidpur Merv Persia-1915 Imphal Kyaukmaung Bridgehead Meiktila Mandalay Rangoon Road Burma 1942-45 Sri nagar (jk) ZOZELA

The **7th Light Cavalry**, was a regular army cavalry regiment in the British Indian Army which first came into British service with the East India Company and went on to serve on the North West Frontier and in World War I and World War II.

## Formation

The history of this regiment can be traced to 1784 when they had been hired from the Nawab of Arcot by the East India Company, when these regiments mutinied for lack of pay John Company was forced to quell the mutiny. The regiments involved were disbanded and from the remnants, volunteers formed the 2nd Madras Cavalry which would eventually become the 7th Light Cavalry.<sup>[1]</sup>

They soon changed their title to the 3rd Madras Native Cavalry and it was under that title that they were first in action during the Third Mysore War in 1790 against Tipu Sultan.<sup>[1]</sup>

They were next in action during the Fourth Mysore War in 1799 and fought with distinction at the Battle of Seringapatam and at the Battle of Mahidpur in the Pindari War of 1817, after which they became known as the 3rd Madras Light Cavalry. For these actions they were awarded the battle honors *Mysore*, *Seringapatam* and *Mahidipore*.<sup>[1]</sup>

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Apart from some minor operations against the southern Mahrattas from 1844 to 1855 and sending some troops to join the Decan force during the Mutiny of 1857, the regiment would not see any action for the next hundred years.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1891 they were converted to lancers becoming the 3rd Regiment of Madras Lancers and in the reorganisation of the Indian Army in 1903, their title was changed to the 28th Light Cavalry.<sup>[1]</sup>

## World War I

At the start of World War I, the Regiment was stationed in Quetta being part of the 4th (Quetta) Division.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1915 two squadrons were sent to Persia where they were mounted on camels they were tasked with stopping German agents from traveling across Persia to Afghanistan.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Regiments success in Persia was demonstrated when they captured a German officer, Lieutenant Winkleman, who was attempting to reach the Amir of Afghanistan to convince him to rebel or start a Jihad, against the British in India.<sup>[1]</sup>



Madras Cavalry

## Russia

Following the Russian Revolution the Regiment was sent to Russia in 1917 to assist the White Russian forces to fight the Bolsheviks.<sup>[1]</sup>

The regiment received the battle honors *Merv* and *Persia 1915* for their services in the Great War.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Between the Wars

In 1922 another reorganization saw the regiment renamed as The 7th Light Cavalry and a year later as the 'Indianization' of the Indian Army officer corps began, the squadron officers were replaced by those of Indian origin, known as Viceroy's Commissioned Officers (VCOs).

## World War II

At the start of the Second World War the Regiment was stationed in Bolarum part of the 4th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade they were brigaded with the:

14th/20th Hussars

Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry

3rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.<sup>[3]</sup>

The regiment was mechanized in 1942 and attached to the 254th Indian Tank Brigade,<sup>[4]</sup> equipped with the M4 Sherman. The Brigade under the command of Brigadier Reginald Scoones consisted of the:

7th Light Cavalry

1st Sqn 3rd Carabiniers

3rd Btn 4th Bombay Grenadiers  
11th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force)  
150th Regt Royal Armoured Corps.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Brigade fought with the 5th Indian Division and the 7th Indian Infantry Divisions in Burma and was involved in the Battle of Imphal, Battle of Kyaukmaung Bridgehead, Battle of Meiktila, and the Rangoon Road.

## Post war

In 1947 the regiment passed to the independent nation of India.

## Regimental Titles

1784 – 2nd Regiment of Madras Native Cavalry  
1786 – 1st Regiment of Madras Native Cavalry  
1788 – 3rd Regiment of Madras Native Cavalry  
1819 – 3rd Regiment of Madras Light Cavalry  
1891 – 3rd Regiment of Madras Lancers  
1903 – 28th Light Cavalry  
1922 – 7th Light Cavalry  
1947 - 7th Regiment of Light Cavalry, Army of India.

## Victoria Cross

L/Daffadar Gobind Singh ,28th Light Cavalry February 1, 1917 Place of Action: east of Peizieres, France attached to the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)

**Citation:**Lance Dafadar Gobind Singh of Indian Cavalry was awarded the Victoria Cross "for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 1st February 1917, east of Pozieres, France, in thrice volunteering to carry messages between the regiment and Brigade Headquarters, a distance of 1½ miles over open ground which was under the observation and heavy fire of the enemy. He succeeded each time in delivering the message, although on each occasion his horse was shot and he was compelled to finish his journey on foot." <sup>[6]</sup>

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- [1] "bharat-rakshak" ([http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/index.php?page=shop.browse&category\\_id=28&option=com\\_virtuemart&Itemid=26#](http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/index.php?page=shop.browse&category_id=28&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=26#)). .
- [2] "orbat.com" (<http://orbat.com/site/history/historical/india/army1914.html>). .
- [3] "adelphia" (<http://home.adelphia.net/~dryan67/orders/ia.html>). .
- [4] The Indian Army 1914–1947 By Dr Angus Konstam, Ian Sumner, Mike Chappell
- [5] "burmastar" (<http://www.burmastar.org.uk/tanks.htm#254th>). .
- [6] London Gazette, 11 January 1918

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Carmen W.Y Indian Cavalry Uniforms Leonard Hill 1961

Mollo B. The Indian Army Blandford Press 1981

## **External links**

Follow this link to view the uniforms of the late 19th Century

- <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>



# 8th King George's Own Light Cavalry

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8th King George's Own Light Cavalry	
<b>Active</b>	1787 - 1946
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Equipment</b>	Horse
<b>Battle honours</b>	Third Mysore War Fourth Mysore War Indian Mutiny Second Burmese War <b>World War I</b> Battle of Givenchy 1914 France and Flanders 1914-1916 Afghanistan 1919 Iraq-1920 <b>World War II</b> Burma Campaign

The **8th King George's Own Light Cavalry** was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of the 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry and the 30th Lancers following a re-organisation of the Indian Cavalry Corps. Both regiments were regular cavalry units that had had long and distinguished records in the British Indian Army prior to their amalgamation. During World War II the regiment was converted into an armoured car unit and served during the Burma campaign.

## 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry

The 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry was originally raised as the **5th Regiment Madras Native Cavalry** on 23 October 1787 as part of the Madras Presidency Army. In 1788, it was re-designated as the 1st Madras Native Cavalry and in 1816 its name was changed to 1 Madras Light Cavalry. The Regiment was yet again renamed as the 1st Regiment of Madras Lancers in 1886, and was known by that title till the turn of the century, when it was changed to 1st Madras Lancers.

In 1903 it was renamed as the 26th Light Cavalry and three years later it became the Prince of Wales Own Light Cavalry and then in 1910, it became the 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry. During this time it participated in the Third Mysore War, 1789–1792, the Fourth Mysore War, 1793-1798. Campaigns against Dhoondia Wagh and the Polygars, 1799-1830. Campaigns in Afghanistan and Burma, between, 1880-1914.

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## World War I

The 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry served in the South Yemen during World War I as part of the Aden Field Force, I: <sup>[1]</sup>

## 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse)

The 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse) was formed in 1826 and participated in the Indian Mutiny, 1857–1859 and the Second Burmese War, 1860-1889. From the Second Burmese War to World War I, 1889-1914. Chap V - World War I to the Amalgamation, 1914-1922. Givenchy 1914; France and Flanders 1914-1916; Afghanistan 1919; Iraq 1920.



Madras Cavalry

## World War I

During the first world war the Regiment was part of the Ambala Cavalry Brigade, 1st Indian Cavalry Division they were brigaded with the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars and the 9th Hodson's Horse<sup>[2]</sup> They were sent to France for service on the Western Front where they at times would serve in the trenches as infantry due to the difference on troop levels each Cavalry Brigade once dismounted formed a dismounted regiment. The high number of officer casualties suffered early on had an effect on its later performance. British officers that understood the language, customs, and psychology of their men could not be quickly replaced, and the alien environment of the Western Front had some effect on the soldiers.<sup>[3]</sup> The Regiment stayed in France as part of the 1st Indian Cavalry Division until March 1918 when the division was broken up and reformed in Egypt.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Amalgamation

In 1922, the two regiments were amalgamated to form the 8th King George's Own Light Cavalry, inheriting in the process, the traditions of both Regiments.<sup>[5]</sup>

## World War II

World War II 1939-1945; Waziristan 1939-1943; Vizagapatam 1944; Burma 1945, 19th Indian Division, 1946.

In 1940, the Regiment started to become mechanised and convert to an Armoured Car Regiment which was not completed until 1943. It went onto serve in Burma with the 19th Indian Division.<sup>[5]</sup>

In April 1941 the Jat squadron was detached from the Regiment. Renamed as the 100th Light Tank Squadron, it was assigned to the new 44th Cavalry Regiment being formed at Risalpur. The squadron was sent to Malaya early in 1942. On January 29, 1942, they arrived in Singapore with 16 tanks and were attached to the British 18th Infantry Division. The entire squadron was lost when the British forces surrendered on February 15, 1942.<sup>[6]</sup> Brigadier Avininder Singh Bedi (Bong Bedi) took over Command from the British of the 8th Cavalry Regiment after Independence and was its first Indian commanding officer. Before Independence Brig. AS Bedi was a commanding officer of 3rd cavalry in the British Army

## Notes

- [1] "ornat.com" (<http://orbat.com/site/cimh/regiments/8CAVALRY/8th Cavalry.html>). .
- [2] "cwgc.org" (<http://www.cwgc.org/ypres/content.asp?id=33&menu=subsub>). .
- [3] Haythornthwaite P.J. (1992). *The World War One Sourcebook*, Arms and Armour Press.
- [4] "warpath" ([http://www.warpath.orbat.com/indian\\_cav/1\\_ind\\_cav\\_div.htm](http://www.warpath.orbat.com/indian_cav/1_ind_cav_div.htm)). .
- [5] "orbat.com" (<http://orbat.com/site/cimh/regiments/8CAVALRY/8th Cavalry.html>). .
- [6] Klemen, L. "100th Indian Indp. Light Tank Squadron, Malaya 1942" ([http://www.dutcheastindies.webs.com/indian\\_tank.html](http://www.dutcheastindies.webs.com/indian_tank.html)). *The Netherlands East Indies 1941-1942*. .

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## External links

Follow this link to view the uniforms of the late 19th Century

- <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glostern/IAcavalry1.htm>

## 9th Royal Deccan Horse

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9th Royal Deccan Horse	
Active	1790 - 1947
Country	British India
Allegiance	British Crown
Branch	British Indian Army
Type	Cavalry
Size	Regiment
Part of	Indian Cavalry Corps
Nickname	Deccan Horse
Equipment	Horse
Engagements	Second Afghan War-1879-1880 Burma War-1886-1888 China-1900
Battle honours	Central India Battle of Givenchy Battle of the Somme Battle of Bazentin Battle of Deville Wood Battle of Flers Courcellete Battle of Cambrai France and Flanders 1914-18 Battle of Megiddo Battle of Sharon Capture of Damascus Palestine 1918 Battle of Meiktila Rangoon Road Capture of Meiktila Defence of Meiktila Battle of Pyawbwe Burma 1942-45

The **9th Royal Deccan Horse** was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army , it was formed from the amalgamation of two regiments after World War I. They saw service from the Mutiny of 1857 up to and including World War II.

## Formation

The 9th Royal Deccan Horse can trace its formation to 1790 when it was called Asif Sah's Irregular Cavalry. Two Regiments were raised for service under the Nizam of Hyderabad in Berar who was allied with the East India Company.<sup>[1]</sup>

During the following years the Regiment's title would change and they were known by the following titles over the years;

1st Regiment, Nizam's Cavalry

2nd Regiment, Nizam's Cavalry

1st Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent

2nd Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent

1st Lancers, Hyderabad Contingent

2nd Lancers, Hyderabad Contingent.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Deccan Horse was frequently called for service during the 18th and 19th Centuries, winning a Victoria Cross in 1859 and was also awarded the battle honour, 'Central India'..<sup>[1]</sup>

The Regiment was also in action during the Second Afghan War, the Burma War, and in China during the Boxer Rebellion. In 1903 during Kitcheners reform of the Indian Army the two Regiments were incorporated into the regular Indian Army with the titles XXth Deccan Horse and the 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse)..<sup>[1]</sup>

## World War I

The 20th Deccan Horse was sent to France for service on the Western Front they were part of the 9th (Secunderbad) Cavalry Brigade of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division.<sup>[2]</sup>

The 29th Lancers were also sent to France they formed part of the 8th (Lucknow) Cavalry Brigade of the 1st Indian Cavalry Division.<sup>[2]</sup>

Both Regiments would at times serve as Infantry in the trenches before being withdrawn for service in Palestine.<sup>[1]</sup>



Deccan Horse, Bazentin Ridge 1916

## Amalgamation

The XXth Deccan Horse was awarded the titled *Royal* for their distinguished service during World War I, and in 1922 following the amalgamation of the two regiments, the Royal Deccan Horse (9th Horse) was formed.<sup>[1]</sup>

## World War II

During the Second World War, the Regiment converted to tanks, and became part of the 255th Indian Tank Brigade<sup>[3]</sup> The regiment took part in the re-conquest of Burma.

## Awards & Honours

### Victoria Cross

Risaldar Badlu Singh, 14th Murray's Jat Lancers attached to the 29th Lancers, on September 23, 1918 at Kh. es Samariyeh, Jordan River, Palestine.

**Citation:** Risaldar Badlu Singh was attached to 29th Lancers when "on the morning of the 23rd September 1918, his squadron charged a strong enemy position on the west bank of the river Jordan, between the river and Kh. es Samariyeh village.

"On nearing the position, Risaldar Badlu Singh realised that the squadron was suffering casualties from a small hill on the left front occupied by machine guns and 200 infantry. Without the slightest hesitation he collected six other ranks and with the greatest dash and total disregard for danger, charged and captured the position, thereby saving very heavy casualties to the squadron. He was mortally wounded on the very top of the hill when capturing one of the machine guns single handed, but all the machine guns and infantry had surrendered to him before he died.

"His valour and initiative were of the highest order." <sup>[4]</sup>

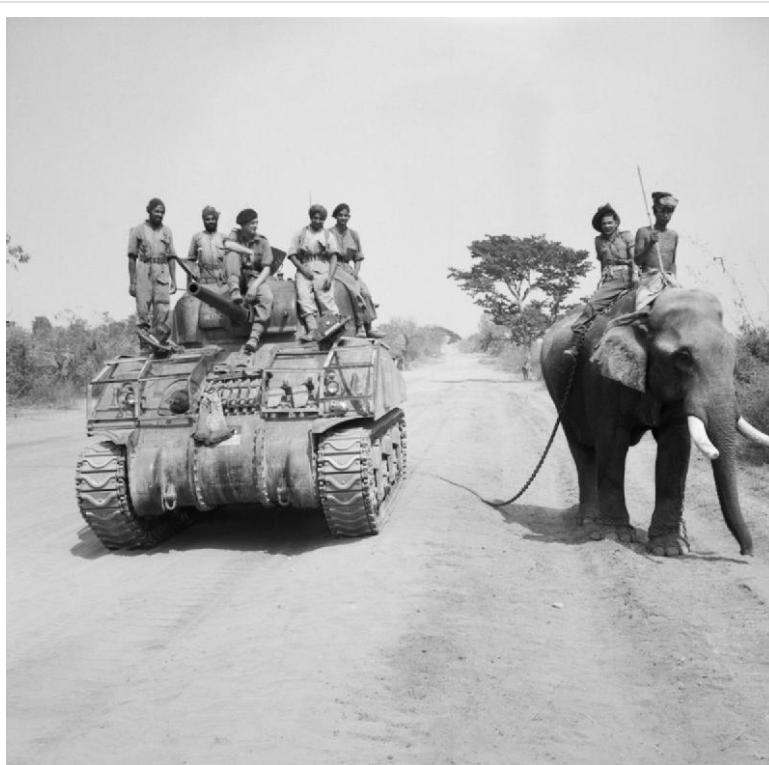
### Konsal Singh

- Description Medal card of Konsal Singh <sup>\*[5]</sup>
- 20th Deccan Horse - Risaldar
- Date - 1914-1920

Honrery Capt. Jailal Singh Military cross The Royal Deccan Horse Vill. Girdharpur(Babepur) Jhajjar Haryana

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- [1] "geocities" (<http://www.webcitation.org/5kjLt5oPc>). Archived from the original ([http://www.geocities.com/stamparchive/Forces/1111\\_DECCAN\\_HORSE.htm](http://www.geocities.com/stamparchive/Forces/1111_DECCAN_HORSE.htm)) on 2009-10-23. .
- [2] "cwgc.org" (<http://www.cwgc.org/ypres/content.asp?id=33&menu=subsub>). .
- [3] "wewerethere" ([http://www.wewerethere.defencedynamics.mod.uk/ww2/india\\_1.html](http://www.wewerethere.defencedynamics.mod.uk/ww2/india_1.html)). .
- [4] London Gazette, 27 November 1918



9th Deccan Horse

[5] name = "National Archive" Record Number WO 372/11 at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

## 5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse

5 Horse	
	
<b>Active</b>	1857 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 British India  Pakistan
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Armoured Regiment
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Nickname</b>	Probyn's Horse
<b>Engagements</b>	Indian Mutiny of 1857 Second Opium War 1860-61 Abyssinian Campaign 1868 Second Afghan War 1878-80 First World War 1914-18 (Mesopotamia) Second World War 1939-45 (Burma) Indo-Pakistani War of 1965
Commanders	
<b>Colonels-in-Chief</b>	King Edward VII King George V
<b>Colonel of the Regiment</b>	Field Marshal The Lord Birdwood
<b>Notable commanders</b>	General Sir Dighton Probyn, VC General Sir Hugh Gough, VC General Sir Alan Hartley Lieutenant General Gul Hassan

The **5 Horse** is an armoured regiment of Pakistan Army. Previously, it was known as the **5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse**, which was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army. It was formed in 1921 by amalgamation of the 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) and 12th Cavalry.<sup>[1]</sup>



## 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse)

The 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) was raised on 1 August 1857 by Captain Frederick Wale during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 and served at Lucknow. Captain Wale was killed in action on 1 March 1858, while leading the regiment in the pursuit of mutineers, and was replaced by Major Dighton Probyn, VC. In 1860 the regiment was dispatched to China to take part in the Second Opium War. They participated in the advance on Peking and returned to India in 1861 with a good reputation. The regiment saw service in the Second Afghan War of 1878-80 and then took part in the Black Mountains Expedition, went to Chitral and formed part of the Malakand Field Force. During the First World War, the regiment served in Mesopotamia.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

- 1857 Wale's Horse
- 1857 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry
- 1858 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry (Probyn's Horse)
- 1861 11th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1864 11th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry (Lancers)
- 1874 11th Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1876 11th (Prince of Wales's Own) Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1901 11th (Prince of Wales's Own) Bengal Lancers
- 1903 11th Prince of Wales's Own Lancers
- 1904 11th Prince of Wales's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse)
- 1906 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse)

## 12th Cavalry

The 12th Cavalry was also raised during the Mutiny of 1857, by Captain PR Hockin in October 1857. It formed part of the 1868 Expedition to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and served in the Second Afghan War of 1878-80. During the First World War, it fought in the Mesopotamian Campaign.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

- 1857 2nd Sikh Irregular Cavalry
- 1861 12th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1901 12th Bengal Cavalry
- 1903 12th Cavalry

## Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers)

After the First World War, the number of Indian cavalry regiments was reduced from thirty-nine to twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the surplus units, it was decided to amalgamate them in pairs. This resulted in renumbering and renaming of the entire cavalry line. The 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) and 12th Cavalry were amalgamated at Meerut on 28 August 1921 to form 5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse. The uniform of Probyn's Horse was blue with scarlet facings. The new regiment's



Risaldar-Major, 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse).  
Watercolour by AC Lovett, 1910.



badge consisted of the Prince of Wales's plumes. Its class composition was one squadron each of Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs and Dogras. The regiment was mechanised in 1940. During the Second World War, the regiment served with great distinction in Burma. On the Partition of India in 1947, Probyn's Horse was allotted to Pakistan.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1956, Pakistan became a republic and all titles pertaining to British royalty were dropped. The regiment's new designation was **5 Horse**, although informally, it continues to be known as the **Probyn's Horse**. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, 5 Horse fought in the Battle of Khem Karan.<sup>[3]</sup>

- 1921 11th/12th Probyn's Horse (amalgamation)
- 1922 5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse
- 1927 Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward's Own Lancers)
- 1937 Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers)
- 1956 5 Horse

## Battle Honours

Lucknow, Taku Forts, Pekin 1860, Abyssinia, Ali Masjid, Peiwar Kotal, Charasiah, Kabul 1879, Afghanistan 1878–80, Chitral, Malakand, Punjab

Frontier, Mesopotamia 1915–18, Meiktila, Capture of Meiktila, Defence of Meiktila, Taungtha, Rangoon Road, Pyawbwe, Pyinmana, Toungoo, Pegu 1945, Burma 1942–45, Khem Karan 1965.<sup>[4]</sup>



Sherman tanks of Probyn's Horse moving up to attack Welaung during the Battle of Meiktila, Burma, 1945.

## References

- [1] Gaylor, John (1991). *Sons of John Company: The Indian and Pakistan Armies 1903–91*. Stroud: Spellmount.
- [2] Boyle, Maj CA. (1929). *The History of Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward's Own Lancers)*. Aldershot: Gale & Polden.
- [3] *The Sabre & Lance: Journal of the Pakistan Armoured Corps*. (1997). Nowshera: The School of Armour & Mechanised Warfare.
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## External links

- Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers) by John Gaylor at The Defence Journal (<http://www.defencejournal.com/may99/probyn-horse.htm>)
- 11th Bengal Lancers (Probyn's Horse) at The British Empire (<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/indiancavalry/11thbl.htm>)
- Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glostons/IAcavalry1.htm>)



Major Dighton Probyn, VC, 1867.

# 14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse

14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse	
<b>Active</b>	1839 - 1947
<b>Country</b>	British India
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Engagements</b>	Second Sikh War Second Afghan War World War I World War II

The **14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse** was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army it can trace its formation back to two regiments of Scinde Irregular Horse raised at Hyderabad in 1839 and 1846 respectively. These two regiments were absorbed into the regular forces after the Mutiny of 1857 and became the 35th Scinde Horse and the 36th Jacob's Horse. They saw active service in Northern and Central India, Persia, Afghanistan on the North West Frontier and, during World War I, where they served in France and Palestine. The two regiments were amalgamated in 1922, as the present 14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse which served in World War II.



5th Bombay Cavalry (Sind Horse). ~1895

## 1st Scinde Irregular Horse

in 1861 became the **5th Bombay Cavalry**

in 1903 **35th Scinde Horse**

## 2nd Scinde Irregular Horse

in 1861 became the **6th Bombay Cavalry**

in 1903 **36th Jacob's Horse**

In 1922 the two regiments were amalgamated as the 14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse.

## 35th Scinde Horse

The 35th Scinde Horse saw service in the Second Sikh War where it was involved in the Battle of Gujrat and the Second Afghan War. During World War I the regiment remained in India

## 36th Jacob's Horse

Raised by Lieut. John Jacob of the Bombay Artillery, they served first in Southern Afghanistan and later under Sir Charles Napier in the taking of Scinde. They later were involved in the Second Sikh War and the Second Afghan War. During World War I the 36th Jacobs Horse was a part of the 8th (Lucknow) Cavalry Brigade, 1st Indian Cavalry Division which saw action in France on the Western Front and later moved to Egypt for the Palestine Campaign; the brigade formation was:

1st (King's) Dragoon Guards

29th Lancers (Deccan Horse)

36th Jacob's Horse

Signal Troop <sup>[1]</sup>

## World War II

In World War II the 14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse was attached to the newly formed 31st Indian Armoured Division, that had been raised in July 1940. The division trained extensively but with very few tanks — the tank Regiments assigned to 1st Indian Armoured Brigade had three M3 Stuart tanks each, though a number of the obsolete India Pattern light tanks were used for crew training. The final formation of the Division was the 252nd Indian Armoured Brigade and the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade Though lacking tanks, the 252nd Armoured Brigade was detached and sent to Iraq in January 1942. Division headquarters moved to Iraq in June 1942, where it took command of the shattered remnants of 3rd Indian Motor Brigade which had been detached and over run by the Italians at the Battle of Gazala and the 252nd Indian Armoured Brigade, which still had no tanks.

Armor finally arrived in November, when one Regiment received M3 Stuart tanks and the other two received Grant medium tanks.

The Armourd Brigade formation was,

14th Prince of Wales's Own Scinde Horse , Grant Tanks

4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Hodson's Horse , Stuart Tanks

14th/20th King's Hussars, Grants Tanks



31st Armoured Division never saw action as a unit, its closest brush with combat coming in April 1944 when it was rushed to Egypt to crush a mutiny among the Greek 1st Infantry Brigade. The Brigade received M4 Sherman tanks in November 1943, apparently in preparation for transfer to combat in Italy, but only drove them in Iraq, Syria and Egypt.

## References

[1] "cwgc.org" (<http://www.cwgc.org/ypres/content.asp?id=33&menu=subsub>). .

# 15th Lancers

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15th Lancers (Baloch)	
<b>Active</b>	1922 - 1937; 1955 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 British India  Pakistan
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Armoured Regiment
<b>Uniform</b>	Dark blue; faced buff
<b>Engagements</b>	Bhutan War 1864-65 Second Afghan War 1878-80 First World War 1914-18 Third Afghan War 1919 Indo-Pakistani War of 1965
<b>Battle honours</b>	Afghanistan 1879-80, Afghanistan 1919, Khem Karan 1965.

The **15th Lancers (Baloch)** is an armoured regiment of the Pakistan Army. It was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of the 17th Cavalry and the 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse).<sup>[1]</sup>

## 17th Cavalry

The 17th Cavalry was raised in 1857 at Muttra by Colonel CJ Robarts and was composed entirely of Afghans. Throughout its existence, the regiment remained an exclusively Muslim unit. In 1861, after several changes in nomenclature, it was designated the 17th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry. In 1865, it saw action as part of the Bhutan Field Force, while in 1879-80, the regiment operated on lines of communication during the Second Afghan War as part of the Kabul Field Force. During the First World War, it dispatched a squadron to Africa where it took part in the East African Campaign. In 1919, the regiment fought in the Third Afghan War. The regiment maintained a mounted pipe band from 1895 to 1902. The uniform of 17th Cavalry was blue with white facings. The regimental badge consisted of a silver star and crescent over "XVII" with a title scroll below.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

- 1857 Muttra Horse
  - 1857 Muttra Police Corps
-

- 1858 Rohilkhand Auxiliary Police Levy
- 1859 Robarts' Horse
- 1861 17th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry
- 1882 Disbanded
- 1885 Re-raised
- 1900 17th Regiment of Bengal Lancers
- 1901 17th Bengal Lancers
- 1903 17th Cavalry

### 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse)

The 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) was raised in 1885 as the 7th Bombay Cavalry (Jacob-ka-Risallah) from the manpower of the 3rd Scinde Horse (Belooch Horse), which had been disbanded in 1882. This regiment was also an all-Muslim unit made up of Pathans and Baluchis. Their first chance of active service came in 1919, when they served in the Third Afghan War, although one of their squadrons operated in Persia during the First World War. The regiment's uniform was dark blue (khaki serge when on parade), with buff facings. The badge consisted of crossed lances and pennons with "37" over crossed lances.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

- 1885 7th Bombay Cavalry (Jacob-ka-Risallah)
- 1886 7th Bombay Cavalry (Belooch Horse)
- 1890 7th Bombay Lancers (Belooch Horse)
- 1903 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse)



37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) (left). Watercolour by Maj AC Lovett, 1910.

## 15th Lancers

After the First World War, the number of Indian cavalry regiments was reduced from thirty-nine to twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the surplus units, it was decided to amalgamate them in pairs. This resulted in renumbering and renaming of the entire cavalry line. The 17th Cavalry and 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) were amalgamated at Lucknow in 1922 to form the 15th Lancers. Meanwhile, an existing 15th Lancers (Cureton's Multanis) joined the 14th Murray's Jat Lancers to form the 20th Lancers.<sup>[1][3][5][6]</sup>

The uniform of the new 15th Lancers was dark blue with buff facings, while the badge consisted of crossed silver lances bearing pennons with "XV" at the crossing and a scroll below. The same uniform and badges are still in use by the regiment.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1937, the 15th Lancers became the training regiment of the 1st Indian Cavalry Group. It was converted into a training centre in 1940 by amalgamating it with the 12th Cavalry (Frontier Force). However, the next year, the Centre was disbanded.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1955, the 15th Lancers was re-raised by the Pakistani Army as a Reconnaissance Regiment of the Pakistan Armoured Corps and equipped with M24 Chaffee light tanks. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the regiment served with great distinction in the Kasur Sector and was awarded the Battle Honour 'Khem Karan 1965.' In 1969, the 15th Lancers was affiliated with the Baluch Regiment (now called the Baloch Regiment) due to the old link with the 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse). It added the title of 'Baluch' to its designation in 1989.<sup>[2]</sup>



- 1922 17th/37th Cavalry (amalgamation of 17th Cavalry and 37th Lancers)
- 1922 15th Lancers
- 1940 1st Indian Armoured Corps Centre (amalgamation of 15th Lancers and 12th Cavalry)
- 1941 Disbanded
- 1955 15th Lancers (re-raised)
- 1989 15th Lancers (Baluch)
- 1991 15th Lancers (Baloch)<sup>[7]</sup>

## Affiliations and alliances

-  The Baloch Regiment
-  The Royal Dragoon Guards

## References

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- [7] In 1991, the spelling of 'Baluch' was changed to 'Baloch' to better reflect the correct pronunciation.

## Further Reading

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## External links

- Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glostern/IAcavalry1.htm>)

# 16th Light Cavalry

16th Light Cavalry	
<b>Active</b>	1776 – present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Armoured
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Engagements</b>	Second Anglo-Mysore War Third Anglo-Mysore War Fourth Anglo-Mysore War Third Anglo-Burmese War Third Afghan War World War I World War II

The **16th Light Cavalry** is a regiment of the Armoured Corps, a primary combat arm of the Indian Army. Prior to India gaining independence from the British in 1947, it was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army. It was formed in 1776 and is the oldest armoured regiment raised in India.<sup>[1]</sup> The 16th Light Cavalry saw service in a number of conflicts ranging from the Second Anglo-Mysore War in 1781 to World War II. It has a number of battle honours including "Punjab 1965" earned during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.



Madras Cavalry

## History

### Formation

The Regiment was raised prior to 1776 as the 3rd Regiment of Native Cavalry in the service of Nawab of Arcot. In 1780, while under service with the British East India Company, it formed part of the force that defeated Hyder Ali during the Second Anglo-Mysore War and was awarded battle honours for the *Battle of Sholinghur*, *Battle of Mysore*, *Battle of Carnatic* and the *Battle of Seringapatam* for service during the Anglo-Mysore Wars. After the Anglo-Mysore Wars the Regiment was next in action during the Third Anglo-Burmese War and were awarded the Battle Honour of *Burma 1885-87*.<sup>[2]</sup>



## Early 20th Century

During World War I (1914–1918) the regiment remained in India for the defence of the North West Frontier but they did send drafts to other Indian cavalry regiments serving in France and the Middle East. In 1919 the regiment was involved in the brief Third Afghan War, for which they were awarded the battle honour of *Afghanistan 1919*.<sup>[2]</sup>

## World War II

During World War II the regiment was employed in the defence of India having converted from horses to armour at Quetta in 1941.

In 1945 they were selected to undertake operations in Burma. Within three weeks the Regiment covered a distance of 3,500 miles from Quetta to the banks of Irrawady River and was personally complimented by General Slim, the Fourteenth Army commander.<sup>[2]</sup>

In Burma the regiment was attached to the 255th Indian Tank Brigade, the brigade formation was;

- 116 Royal Armoured Corps (Sherman tanks), formed from the Gordon Highlanders
- 7th Light Cavalry (Stuarts)
- 16th Light Cavalry (Armoured Cars).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Lineage

- 1776 – Regiment of Cavalry (Stevenson's), Nawab of Arcot's Army
- 1784 – 3rd Madras Native Cavalry
- 1784 – 1st Madras Native Cavalry
- 1786 – 4th Madras Native Cavalry
- 1788 – 2nd Madras Native Cavalry
- 1819 – 2nd Madras Light Cavalry
- 1886 – 2nd Regiment of Madras Lancers
- 1901 – 2nd Madras Lancers
- 1903 – 27th Light Cavalry
- 1922 – 16th Light Cavalry
- 1947 – Allocated to India at independence and partition,<sup>[2]</sup> continues in service as 16th Light Cavalry

## Battle honours

The battle and theatre honours of the 16th Light Cavalry are:<sup>[4]</sup>

Pre-World War I

- Sholinghur
- Carnatic
- Mysore
- Seringapatam
- Burma 1885-87

World War I and later

- Afghanistan 1919

The Second World War

- Meiktila
  - Capture of Meiktila
  - Defence of Meiktila
  - Rangoon Road
-

- Pegu 1945
- Sittang 1945
- Burma 1942-45.

Indo Pak Conflict 1965

- Punjab 1965

## Notes

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## External links

- Uniforms of the late 19th Century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>)
  - <http://16cavroa.com/>
  - <http://www.wolftree.freemove.co.uk/Burma/Burma.html>
-

# The Poona Horse

17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse	
<b>Active</b>	1817 - 1947 British India 1947 - present Indian Army
<b>Country</b>	British India
<b>Allegiance</b>	Great Britain
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Nickname</b>	Ponna Horse
<b>Engagements</b>	Battle Of Koregaum <b>First Afghan War</b> Battle of Kandahar-1842 Battle of Ghunzee-1842 Battle of Kabul-1842 Battle of Meanee-1843 Battle of Hyderabad-1843 <b>Persian Conflict</b> Battle Of Kooshab-1856 <b>Indian Mutiny</b> Battle of Sindwaha-1858 Abyssinia 1867-68 <b>Second Afghan War 1879-80</b> Battle of Girishk Battle of Maiwand Battle of Kandahar-1880 <b>China</b> Boxer Rebellion Battle of Peking-1900 <b>World War I</b> First Battle of Ypres-1914 Battle of Givenchy Battle of La Basse-1914 Battle of Armentiers-1914 Battle of the Somme-1916 Battle of Flers-Courselette-1916 Battle of Cambrai-1917 Battle of Shaiba Battle of Ctesiphon Capture of Damascus <b>Third Afghan War</b> <b>World War II</b> First Battle of El Alamein

**The Poona Horse** is an armoured regiment in the Armoured Corps of the Indian Army. The regiment, known before independence as **The Poona Horse (17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry)**, was raised as a regular cavalry regiment in the Bombay Presidency army of the East India Company. It was formed from the 3rd Regiment of

Bombay Light Cavalry, raised in 1820, and the Poona Auxiliary Horse, raised about 1817-18. The latter unit was absorbed into the regular forces about 1860 and the two regiments later became the 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry and the 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. These were amalgamated in 1921 into the present regiment, the battle honours of which tell of service in three Afghan Wars, in Persia, Abyssinia and China, as well as in the Great War. The regiment has fought with distinction in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani Wars with an officer winning India's highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra, in each war.

## History

In accordance with the article VI of The Treaty of Poona between the British Governor-General of India Lord Hastings and Baji Rao II of the Peshwas, a cavalry regiment was raised on 15 June 1817. As per the treaty the force would be maintained by the Peshwa and was supposed to be permanently stationed in the territory of Peshwas. The interesting part of the treaty was that the force could have been used against the Peshwa by the British when necessary. The regiment was raised under the order of Mountstuart Elphinstone the Governor of Bombay.

The two Regiments that would go onto form the Poona Horse were the 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry and the 34th Prince Albert victor's Own Poona Horse

### 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry

Raised at Sirur on 4 May 1820 by Major Peter Delamotte.

- 1820 3rd Regiment of Bombay Light Cavalry.
- 1861 3rd Regiment of Bombay Silladar Light Cavalry.
- 1861 3rd Regiment of Bombay Light Cavalry.
- 1876 3rd (The Queen's Own) Regiment of Bombay Light Cavalry
- 1903 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry.
- 1911 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry.
- 1921 33rd/34th Cavalry.
- 1922 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse.
- 1927 The Poona Horse (17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry).
- 1947 To Indian Army.
- 1950 The Poona Horse (17 Horse)

### 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse

Raised at Poona (now Pune) on 15 July 1817 as a result of the treaty between the HEIC and The Peshwa Bajee Rao II.

- 1817 The Auxiliary Horse
  - 1818 The Poona Auxiliary Horse.
  - 1847 The Poona Irregular Horse.
  - 1861 4th Regiment of Poona Silladar Horse.
  - 1861 1st Regiment of Poona Horse.
  - 1862 The Poona Horse.
  - 1885 4th Bombay Cavalry (Poona Horse).
  - 1890 4th (Prince Albert Victor's Own) Bombay Cavalry (Poona Horse).
  - 1903 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse.
-

- 1921 33rd/34th Cavalry.
- 1922 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse.
- 1927 The Poona Horse ( 17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry).
- 1947 To Indian Army.
- 1950 The Poona Horse ( 17 Horse)

## World War I

In August 1914, the Poona Horse was stationed at Secunderabad, as part of the 9th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade. They were brigaded with the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 20th Deccan Horse.<sup>[1]</sup> The Brigade was dispatched to France and fought on the Western Front their first action being the First Battle of Ypres.<sup>[1]</sup>

### France

On 2 November 1914 the regiment was sent to reinforce the 2nd Gurkhas in the Neuve Chapelle sector on arrival they discovered that the Gurkhas defences had been breached and overrun. The Poona Horse was asked to recapture the position. The Regiment launched a counter attack in daylight and without any artillery support. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Swanston who was leading the attack was killed.<sup>[1]</sup> In France the regiment would be involved in the Battle of Givenchy, Battle of La Basse, Battle of Armentiers, Battle of the Somme (1916), Battle of Flers-Courcelette and Battle of Cambrai (1917).<sup>[1]</sup> In February 1918, the Poona Horse and all the other Indian cavalry regiments in France were deployed to Palestine to join General Allenby's forces.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Palestine

The Poona Horse arrived in Egypt in April 1918, they now formed the 14th Cavalry Brigade of the 5th Cavalry Division with the Deccan Horse and the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.<sup>[1]</sup>

The force also consisted of the 4th Cavalry Division, the Australian Mounted Division and the Anzac Mounted Division.<sup>[1]</sup>

On 19 September 1918, the allied offensive began. The Infantry broke through the Turkish defences and the Desert Mounted Corps followed up. When they reached the Gates of Damascus, the Poona Horse, along with rest of the 14th Cavalry Brigade, were tasked with patrolling the road from Homs to Damascus Road. When they charged a party of Arabs who ran off leaving a large car behind with a European seated inside the Risaldar Major Hamir Singh, believing him to be a spy, demanded his surrender. The European turned out to be Colonel TE Lawrence. "El Aurens" was not amused.<sup>[1]</sup>

At 10:15 on the morning of 1 October 1918, the Regiment entered Damascus and after the rest of the Brigade. The Regiment was ordered to take Rayak and then march onto Aleppo, which they reached on 25 October just before the Armistice was signed on 30 October in Mudros Harbour, aboard the battleship HMS *Agamemnon*.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Mesopotamia

The 33rd Queen Victoria's Own were sent to Mesopotamia as part of the 6th (Poona) Division to counter Turkish advances and to protect the oil fields. They were involved in the Battle of Shaiba and the Battle of Ctesiphon.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Between the wars

In 1919, the 33rd Light Cavalry now part of the 1st Cavalry Brigade was posted to Risalpur they were brigaded with the, 1st Lancers and "M" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. On 6 May 1919, they received the information that the Afghan Army had attacked the outpost at Landi Khanna, North of the Khyber Pass, and was advancing into India. The Infantry attacked the Khyber Pass to push the Afghans back. Once the pass had been cleared the Cavalry

advanced and after some skirmishing, and two set piece battles, the Afghan Army was dispersed..<sup>[1]</sup>

## Amalgamation

In 1920, the decision was made to reduce the number of Indian Cavalry Regiments from 39 to 21. This would leave the army with 18 amalgamated regiments, plus the 27th Light Cavalry, the 28th Light Cavalry and the Guides Cavalry. This change was promulgated under Indian Army Order No 1257 November 22, 1921. Based on this decision, the 33rd Light Cavalry and 34th Poona Horse were amalgamated as the 33rd/34th Cavalry, which was changed in 1922 to the 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse..<sup>[1]</sup> The Regiment's new organisation was now three sabre squadrons and a headquarters squadron, which would contain all the specialists, i.e, machine gunners, signallers etc, into one squadron..<sup>[1]</sup>

## World War II

The Poona Horse was one of two Indian Army cavalry regiments selected to remain horsed while the rest of the cavalry was mechanised. This situation did not last long and just after the start of the war the regiment was mechanised. The Headquarters Squadron now had a mortar troop, signals troop, 'B' echelon administrative troop and light Aid Detachment for forward vehicle recovery and repair. The sabre Squadrons each now comprised a Squadron Headquarters, four armoured carrier troops and one rifle troop. Each troop had four Bren carriers and the rifle troop was mounted in four 15 cwt Chevrolet trucks now mechanised they became the Divisional reconnaissance regiment for the 6th Indian Division and deployed to Iraq..<sup>[1]</sup> In 1942 the regiment was ordered to the middle east to join the British Eighth Army. In the closing stages of the First Battle of El Alamein, the Poona Horse was the guard force for General Claude Auchinleck, the commander of the 8th Army at the tactical headquarters sited on the Ruweisat Ridge, the most prominent tactical feature of the Alamein position. This was the highlight of the Regiment's war for they were then ordered back to Iraq as part of the British Tenth Army..<sup>[1]</sup> In September 1944 the Regiment was sent to Cyprus on garrison duties and were still there in May 1945 when Germany surrendered..<sup>[1]</sup> The Regiment returned to India in October 1945 and were issued their first tanks, the Stuart MK IV.

## Post Independence

Post Independence the Regiment was part of the 1st Armoured Division (India) and participated in Operation Polo, Operation Ablaze and Operation Nepal. The division consisted of the 9th Armoured Brigade and 43rd Lorried Infantry Brigade. The Armoured Brigade consisted of the 16th Cavalry, Hodson's Horse and the Poona Horse equipped with upgunned Sherman tanks and Centurion tanks.

## Victoria Cross

Members of the Regiment awarded the Victoria Cross.

Lieutenant Arthur Thomas Moore 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry. On 18 February 1857.

Lieutenant Frank Alexander de Pass 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. On 24 November 1914.

Lieutenant John Grant Malcolmson 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry. On 18 February 1857.

Lieutenant (later Field Marshal) Sir Henry Evelyn Wood whilst on attachment with the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry. On 19 October 1858.

## Param Vir Chakra

Since independence two members of the regiment have been awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

- Lt. Col. Ardeshir Tarapore (Posthumous), Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, Battle of Butur-Dograndi
- 2nd Lt. Arun Khetarpal (Posthumous), Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, Battle of Jarpal

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- [1] "bharat-rakshak" (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/Regiments2/Poona Horse.pdf>). .

## External links

- Uniforms of the late 19th century (<http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>)

# 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry

18th King Edward's Own Cavalry	
<b>Active</b>	1842 -
<b>Country</b>	British India
<b>Allegiance</b>	British Crown
<b>Branch</b>	British Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Cavalry
<b>Size</b>	Regiment
<b>Part of</b>	Indian Cavalry Corps
<b>Patron</b>	King Edward VII
<b>Engagements</b>	Gwalior Campaign First Anglo-Sikh War Third Anglo-Burmese War 1882 Anglo-Egyptian War World War I Second Mohmand Campaign World War II
<b>Battle honours</b>	Punniar Moodkee Ferozeshah Sobraon Egypt 1882 Tel-El-Kebir Punjab Frontier

The **18th King Edward's Own Cavalry** was a regular cavalry regiment in the British Indian Army. It was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of the **6th King Edward's Own Cavalry** and the **7th Haryana Lancers**. These regiments served the British Crown from before the Indian Mutiny to World War II.

## 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry

The 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry was raised at Fatehgarh in 1842 by Lt W H Ryves as the 8th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry,

In 1861 became the 6th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry

In 1883 became the 6th (the Prince of Wales) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry

In 1901 became the 6th (Prince of Wales) Bengal Cavalry

In 1906 became the 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry

Their first action was in 1843 during the Gwalior Campaign in central India for which they earned the battle honour *Punniar*. In 1845 they were involved in the First Anglo-Sikh War and participated in the *Battle of Moodkee* the *Battle of Ferozeshah* and the *Battle of Sobraon*. They were next in action in Egypt during the 1882 Anglo-Egyptian War where they were awarded the battle honours *Egypt 1882* as a theatre honour and also honours for the *Battle of Tel-El-Kebir*. It was while on service in Egypt that khaki was worn by all ranks for the first time.<sup>[1]</sup>

During World War I they were part of the 1st Indian Cavalry Division, 2nd (Sailkot) Cavalry Brigade which arrived in France in November 1914. They were involved in the First Battle of Ypres and other actions on the Western Front



but notably in, the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and the Battle of Cambrai<sup>[2]</sup>

The brigade formation was;

17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own)

6th King Edward's Own Cavalry

19th Lancers (Fane's Horse)

Brigade Signal Troop

## 7th Haryana Lancers

The 7th Haryana Lancers was formed in 1846 as a regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry raised in Meerut and Cawnpore by Captain Liptrott. The Regiment was raised after the First Sikh War in anticipation of the Second War starting. When the Second Sikh War broke out, they did not become involved in any engagements but found themselves in the reserve force. In 1857 when the Indian Mutiny broke out they were stationed on the North West Frontier the regiment remained loyal and did not mutiny. As a result of the mutiny and the reconstruction of the Bengal army, the irregular cavalry regiments 8th to 16th were disbanded and the 17th became the 7th Bengal Cavalry. They went to Burma in 1886 during the 3rd Burmese War which would be their last action until the Great War. In 1915 during World War I they were part of the forces sent to Mesopotamia and fought in the Battle of Shaiba where on 13 Apr Major Wheeler received a posthumous VC. They would lose a squadron in the actions at Kut-Al-Amara, they returned to Bolarum in October 1916. Like all regiments of the Indian Army, the 7th Cavalry underwent many name changes in the various reorganisations. They are listed below. There seems to be no reason for the name chosen in the 1904 reorganisation other than a large number of the men came from that district.

In 1846 16th Irregular Cavalry

In 1847 became the 17th Irregular Cavalry

In 1861 became the 7th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry

In 1900 became the 7th Regiment of Bengal Lancers

In 1901 became the 7th Bengal Lancers

In 1903 became the 7th Lancers

In 1904 became the 7th Haryana Lancers.

## Victoria Cross

One member of the 7th Haryana Lancers was awarded the Victoria Cross, Major George Godfrey Massy Wheeler. On 12 April 1915 at Shaiba, Mesopotamia, Major Wheeler led his squadron in an attempt to capture a flag which was the centre-point of a group of the enemy who were firing on one of his troop's picquets. He advanced, attacked the enemy's infantry with the lance, and then retired while the enemy swarmed out of hidden ground where Royal Artillery guns could attack them. On 13 April Major Wheeler led his squadron to the attack of the North Mound. He was seen far ahead of his men, riding straight for the enemy's standards, but was killed in the attack.

## World War II

In World War II the regiment was mechanised in December 1940 and attached to the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade which as initially part of the 31st Indian Armoured Division.<sup>[3]</sup> The brigade was sent to Egypt and the Western Desert Campaign and was attached to a number of different formations including the 2nd Armoured Division, 7th Armoured Division and the 9th Australian Division who they were with at the Siege of Tobruk.<sup>[3]</sup> It also supplied men for the Indian Long Range Squadron. The brigade was later overrun by the Italians during the Battle of Gazala and took some days to reform. In 1942 the brigade returned to the 31st Armoured and was stationed in Iraq as part of Paiforce.



An Indian Pattern Carrier Mk IIA named 'Dhar IV', North Africa, 10 April 1942 of the type used by 3rd Indian Motor Brigade

The Brigade formation was:

2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), equipment Cavalry Carrier – 2 x Recon Sqn, 1 x AT Sqn.<sup>[4]</sup>

11th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force) equipment Cavalry Carrier - 2 x Recon Sqn, 1 x AT Sqn.<sup>[4]</sup>

18th King Edward's Own Cavalry, equipment Cavalry Carrier - 2 x Recon Sqn, 1 x AT Sqn.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup>

## References

- [1] Bengal Cavalry Regiments 1857-1914 By R. G. Harris, Christopher Warner
- [2] "1914-1918" ([http://web.archive.org/web/20080621141552/http://www.1914-1918.net/CAVALRY/1cavdiv\\_indian.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20080621141552/http://www.1914-1918.net/CAVALRY/1cavdiv_indian.htm)). Archived from the original ([http://www.1914-1918.net/CAVALRY/1cavdiv\\_indian.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/CAVALRY/1cavdiv_indian.htm)) on 21 June 2008. . Retrieved 06 July 2008.
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## External links

Follow this link to view the uniforms of the late 19th Century

- <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glosters/IAcavalry1.htm>

# The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)

The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)	
<div></div> <p>A havildar of the 1st Central India Horse in 1886</p>	
Active	1857 - 1947
Country	British India
Allegiance	British Crown
Branch	British Indian Army
Type	Cavalry
Size	Regiment
Part of	Indian Cavalry Corps
Engagements	Indian Mutiny Second Afghan War World War I World War II

**The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)** was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army. They were formed at the start of the Mutiny of 1857 and served in the Great War and World War II.

## Formation

The regiment was founded as two irregular cavalry regiments in 1857, at the outset of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 by Henry Otway Mayne, and was known initially as **Mayne's Horse** and the 2nd regiment which was known as **Beatson's Horse**

They were based at the town of Guna, in the state of Gwalior and Augar in central India. In 1860 Mayne's Horse was renamed the **1st Regiment Central India Horse**, and Beatson's Horse was renamed the **2nd Regiment Central India Horse**.

In 1860 the officer commanding the Central India Horse was made the British political officer for the small states of Raghugarh, Khaniadhana (after 1888), Paron, Garha, Umri, and Bhadaura, which were made a separate charge from that of the Resident of Gwalior. This arrangement was abolished in 1896, when these states were again placed under the resident, with the officer commanding at Guna continuing to act as ex-officio assistant to the Resident, with very limited powers. Both Regiments would serve together in the Second Afghan War.

## Twentieth century

During the Kitchener reorganisation of the Indian Army of 1903, the 1st Regiment became the **38th Regiment Central India Horse**, and the 2nd regiment became the **39th Regiment Central India Horse**. In 1906, the regiments were renamed the **38th and 39th Prince of Wales's Own Central India Horse**, and in 1910 the **38th and 39th King George's Own Central Indian Horse**.

## The Great War

During the Great War the 38th King George's Own Central India Horse was part of the 5th (Mhow) Cavalry Brigade in the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division the brigade consisted of the;

- 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons
- 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
- 38th King George's Own Central India Horse
- Signal Troop<sup>[1]</sup>

and the 39th King George's Own Central India Horse remained in India stationed in Poona.

## Amalgamation

In 1921, the two regiments were amalgamated into the **38th/39th Cavalry**, which was renamed the **38th/39th King George's Own Light Cavalry** (1922), **The Central India Horse (21st King George's Own Horse)** (1923), and **The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)** (1937).

## World War II

On March 20, 1942 Captain Arthur Sandeman of the Central India Horse leading a 60 man patrol of the Sikh sowars of the Frontier Force cavalry, against Japanese infantry near Toungoo airfield in central Burma charged in the old style with sabres and most (including Sandeman) were killed.

During World War II the Central India Horse was the divisional reconnaissance regiment for the 4th Indian Division there equipment consisted of Light Tanks and Indian Carriers. Attached to the 4th Indian they were involved in the Western Desert Campaign the East African Campaign the Tunisia Campaign and the Italian Campaign. It was during the Italian Campaign that two members of

the Regiment would be posthumously awarded the George Cross Ditto Ram and St. John Graham Young attached from the Royal Tank Regiment



An Indian Pattern Carrier Mk IIA named 'Dhar IV', North Africa, 10 April 1942 of the type used by the Central India Horse.

Notice of the award was published in the *London Gazette* on 20 July 1945.<sup>[2]</sup> Young had been leading a night patrol on 23 July 1944, when he and his men found themselves in any enemy minefield. He received the full force of a mine explosion, severely injuring both legs. Despite his wounds, his encouragement enabled the majority of his men to reach safety. One of them, Sowar Ditto Ram, was also posthumously awarded the GC for his actions in the same incident.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Independence

Upon India's independence, the Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse) was allocated to India, although a Muslim Punjabi squadron was transferred to the 19th King George V's Own Lancers in exchange for its Jat squadron. When India became a republic in 1950, the regiment was renamed The Central India Horse which is one of the decorated regiment of Indian Army. The **Central India Horse** is now a tank regiment of the Indian Army.

## References

- [1] "cwgc.org" (<http://www.cwgc.org/ypres/content.asp?id=33&menu=subsub>). .
- [2] *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 37185. p. 3765 (<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/37185/supplements/3765>). 17 July 1945. Retrieved 2008-05-27.
- [3] "Commonwealth War Graves Commission—Casualty details—Young, St John Graham" ([http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty\\_details.aspx?casualty=2098122](http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty_details.aspx?casualty=2098122)). Commonwealth War Graves Commission. . Retrieved 2008-05-27.

## External links

Follow this link to view the uniforms of the late 19th Century

- <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Glostesters/IAcavalry1.htm>

# 41 Armoured Regiment (India)

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The **41 Armoured Regiment**, part of the Armoured Corps of the Indian army, was raised at Ahmednagar on July 1, 1980, under then Lieut-Col J.P. Singh. The regiment was declared fit for war service in February 1981.<sup>[1]</sup>

The regiment celebrated its silver jubilee in 2006.<sup>[2]</sup> To commemorate the special day, a "Sainik Sammelan" (soldier's gathering), was organised. The founder of the Regiment, Brigadier J.P. Singh, also graced the occasion. A number of ex-servicemen participated in the celebrations.

## References

- [1] " Bharat-Rakshak," (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/Reg-Arm.html>)
  - [2] " Silver jubilee of 41 Armoured Regiment ," (<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2006/20060323/aplus.htm#10>) Rashmi Talwar, *The Tribune - Amritsar Plus*,
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## 42 Armoured Regiment (India)

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The **42nd Armoured Regiment** is an armoured regiment of the Indian Army Armoured Corps that was raised in January 1981. Prior to the World War II, the regiment existed under different names. Its slogan is "karma shourya vijaya", which means work, valour, victory. It is commanded by an officer of the rank of Colonel. It has in its history some very bright and brave officers, reflecting the high regimental standards, who went on to do well later in their career and lives. The men are very passionate about their regiment and squadrons. The regiment has served in many different locations mostly across northern India. Some of the locations include Ambala, Jalandhar, Lucknow, Babina, Barmer, Amritsar,.

# 45th Cavalry Regiment

45th Cavalry Regiment	
	
<b>Active</b>	1941-1946, 1965-present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Army
<b>Type</b>	Armoured Regiment
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Pathankot (Mamoon Cantt)
<b>Nickname</b>	<i>Paintalis Risala</i>
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Veer Bhogya Vasundhara</i> (The World is for the Brave)
<b>Equipment</b>	T-55 Main Battle Tank Upgunned
<b>Engagements</b>	Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 Battle of Garibpur
<b>Decorations</b>	Indo Pak War '71 - Maj D S Narang MVC (Posth.), 2Lt S Chandravarkar SM (Posth), Maj H S Puri SM, Ris RP Singh, SC (Posth.),
<b>Battle honours</b>	Darsana
Insignia	
<b>Unit pin</b>	

The **45th Cavalry Regiment** is an Indian Army armoured unit. It was first created during World War II and was active from 1941 to 1946. It was reformed in 1965 and is currently stationed in Pathankot (Mamoon Cantt) India. The unit took part in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 in East Pakistan (now independent Bangladesh), under the command of 9th Infantry Division.<sup>[1]</sup>

The regiment was then equipped with Russian PT-76 amphibious light battle tanks and fought in the Battles of Garibpur, Kushtia and Jessore.

In peacetime, the regiment was based at Kanchrapara in the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, in its amphibious role, although "C" Squadron was re-equipped with T-55 Main Battle Tanks.

In due course, the aging warhorses, the PT-76 tanks, were phased out and the 45th Cavalry Regiment was finally fully reequiped and subsequently converted all its squadrons to the up-gunned version of the T-55 MBT.

## References

- [1] John H. Gill, An Atlas of the 1971 India - Pakistan War: The Creation of Bangladesh, Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (National Defense University), p.71

## External links

- http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Army/Reg-Arm.html
- http://www.regiments.org/regiments/southasia/lists/ia1947.htm



# 61st Cavalry Regiment

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**61st Cavalry Regiment** may refer to:

- 61st Cavalry Regiment (India)
- 61st Cavalry Regiment (United States)

# 62nd Cavalry Regiment

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The **62nd Cavalry** is an Armoured Regiment of the Indian Army and was raised by Lt Col RS Butalia on 31 Mar 1957 at Ambala Cantonment. Drawn from the existing cavalry regiments of the time, the 62nd Cavalry is recruited from the Sikh, Jat and Dogra communities.

The Regiment was born as the first Armoured Regiment to be raised in Independent India and was the First Indian Armoured Regiment to be raised entirely on Tanks. In its ninth year, the 62nd Cavalry took part in the 1965 War against Pakistan. The regiment, equipped with obsolete Sherman tanks fought modern Pakistani Patton tanks and outgunned and out-tanked them. The Regiment was honoured by President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy during its silver Jubilee when he presented a Guidon to them on 31 March 1981.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Regiment celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a mounted parade reviewed by the Chief of Army Staff on 31 March 2006. During the parade the COAS bestowed the Regiment with a Standard in recognition of its achievements. The celebrations were attended by the Chief Minister of Punjab, Capt. Amarinder Singh, in recognition of the services rendered by 62nd Cavalry personnel who hail from Punjab apart from Lt Gen GD Singh, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (P&S), the Colonel of the Regiment of 62 CAVALRY.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

[1] [http://pib.nic.in/release/rel\\_print\\_page1.asp?relid=16890](http://pib.nic.in/release/rel_print_page1.asp?relid=16890)

[2] <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Armoured.html>

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## 67 Armoured Regiment (India)

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The **67th Armoured Regiment** is an armoured regiment of the Indian Army formed in 1967. It is equipped with T-72 tanks

## 90 Armoured Regiment

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**90 Armoured Regiment** was raised on 15 August 1979 by amalgamating three Independent Reconnaissance Squadrons of the Indian Armoured Corps. 90 Indep Recce Sqn belonged to The Poona Horse, 92 Indep Recce Sqn belonged to 18 Cavalry and 93 Indep Recce Sqn belonged to 65 Armoured Regiment.

Though raised before a number of other Armoured Regiment it took the number 90 from the senior most among the Recce Squadrons that amalgamated to form this regiment. Lt Col Manjit Singh Sawhney of 18 Cavalry was the first Commandant while Ris Maj Bhanwar Khan of 92 Indep Recce Sqn was the first Risaldar Major. The regiment was raised under 10th Indian Division at Phaun Da Chak in Jammu and Kashmir. The Recce Squadrons merged completely with men & equipment. The squadron Commanders however returned to their respective regiments.


"Death Before Dishonor" is the regimental motto.

The regiment has over the years earned a number of gallantry awards and has excelled in all spheres of military activity.

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# Regiment of Artillery

## Regiment of Artillery

Regiment of Artillery	
	
<b>Active</b>	1827- Present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Allegiance</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Artillery
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Nashik, Maharashtra
<b>Motto</b>	Sarvatra Izzat-o-Iqbal
<b>Anniversaries</b>	September 28 (Gunners' Day)
<b>Decorations</b>	Victoria Cross 1 Vir Chakra 3 Yudh Seva Medal (YSM)1 Sena Medal 19 Shaurya Chakra 1 <sup>[1]</sup>
Insignia	
<b>Regimental insignia</b>	A gun with Star of India above it

The **Regiment of Artillery** is an operational arm (a regiment/corps) of the Indian Army. Formerly part of Royal Indian Artillery (RIA) of British Indian Army which itself traces its origins to the formation of Bombay Artillery in 1827. It was later involved in extensive service in the First World War, in East Africa, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia and Palestine .

Today it is the second largest arm of the Indian Army, and with its guns, mortars, rocket launchers, unmanned aerial vehicles, surveillance systems and missiles, artillery firepower, constitutes almost one-sixth of its total strength.

### History

Historically Mughal Emperor Babur is popularly credited with introduction of Artillery in India, in the Battle of Panipat in 1526, where he decisively used gunpowder firearms and field artillery and defeated the much larger army of Ibrahim Lodhi, the ruler of the large North Indian Delhi Sultanate, thus not just laying the foundation of the Mughal Empire but also setting a precedent of all future battles in the subcontinent. However evidence of earlier use of gun by Bahmani Kings in the 'Battle of Adoni' in 1368 and King Mohammed Shah of Gujarat in fifteenth century have been recorded.

The East India Company raised the first regular company of Artillery in 1748, with a small percentage of Indian Gunners called Gun Lashkars, Tindals and Serangs. A few Indian mountain artillery batteries, officered by the British, were raised in the 19th century and formed part of the Royal Artillery.<sup>[2]</sup> The Royal Indian Artillery (RIA) of the British India Army, was raised on September 28, 1827, as a part of the Bombay Army, a presidency army of the Bombay Presidency. It was later renamed as 5 Bombay Mountain Battery, and participated in the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842). The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was sparked off in Meerut on 10 May 1857, primarily by native artillery of Bengal Army, following which all Indian artillery units were banned except mountain artillery batteries,<sup>[3]</sup> though Major Richard Keatinge of Bombay Artillery was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1858 for his service during the Indian Rebellion.

In the 20th century, the Artillery was later involved in extensive service in the First World War, in East Africa, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, and Palestine.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Regiment of Artillery was raised on 15 January 1935, when the first three Indian Field Regiments, originally numbered A, B, and C were authorised.<sup>[4]</sup> Originally called the 'Indian Regiment of Artillery', which later became 'The Regiment of Indian Artillery' on 1 November 1940 and 'Royal Regiment of Indian Artillery' in October 1945, after its success in World War II.<sup>[3]</sup>

After the partition of India in 1947 RIA was divided between the newly formed artillery regiments of India and Pakistan.<sup>[2]</sup> In the coming years the artillery took part in all the operations fought by the Indian Army, the latest being the Kargil War.

The School of Artillery of the Indian Army is situated at Devlali near Nashik, and the Regiment of Artillery Museum, established in 1970, is also situated in Nashik at Nasik Road Camp.

The Regiment of Artillery was divided in the mid 1990s between the Field Artillery, the Corps of Air Defence Artillery formed in January 1994, and the Army Aviation Corps formed in November 1993.<sup>[5]</sup> The Field Artillery is the largest successor branch, with 190 regiments, but no longer accounted for a sixth of the army's 1.2 million 1996 strength.

Jane's Defence Weekly said in 1996 that divisional artillery deployed on India's plains is expected to have a mix of 130mm and 155mm guns.<sup>[6]</sup> This could be a combination of three 130mm regiments and one regiment of 155mm guns, or two regiments of each calibre, depending on the anticipated threat and whether the division is to be employed for offensive or defensive operations.

On 15 January 1985, a commemorative stamp depicting a Gunner and Howitzer from Mountain Battery was released by India Post, on the Golden Jubilee of the Regiment of Artillery<sup>[7]</sup>



A mountain artillery crew from the British Indian Army demonstrating assembly of the RML 2.5 inch Mountain Gun, ca 1895

## Artillery of India

### Mortars

- 120 mm E1 light mortar

### Anti-aircraft guns

- All Weather Air Defence Gun System (AWADGS)
- 40mm Bofors L/70 anti-aircraft gun (upgraded variant)
- 40mm Bofors L/60 anti-aircraft gun (upgraded variant)
- 23mm ZSU-23-2 anti-aircraft gun

### Field artillery

- 105mm Indian Field Gun
- 105mm Light Field Gun
- 122mm D-30 Howitzer
- 130mm M-46 Field Gun
- 155mm E1 Metamorphosis gun 45 Caliber Howitzer
- 155mm Haubits FH77/B Howitzer

### Self-propelled artillery

- 105mm FV433 Abbot self-propelled gun
- 130mm M-46 Catapult self-propelled gun

### Rocket artillery

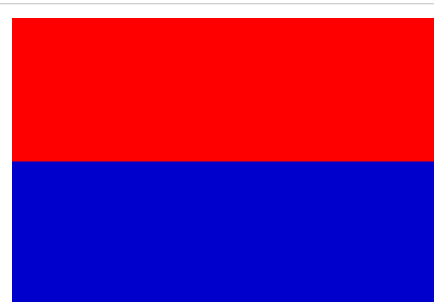
- 122mm BM-21 Grad Multiple Barrel Rocket Launcher
- 214mm Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher
- 300mm BM-30 Smerch Multiple Barrel Rocket Launcher

## Notable personnel

- Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army
  - General Paramasiva Prabhakar Kumaramangalam (June 7, 1966 - June 7, 1969)
  - General Om Prakash Malhotra (May 31, 1978 - May 31, 1981)
  - General Sunith Francis Rodrigues (June 30, 1990 - June 30, 1993)
  - General Sundararajan Padmanabhan (September 30, 2000 - December 31, 2002)
  - General Deepak Kapoor (September 30, 2007 - March 31, 2010)
- Umrao Singh: Victoria Cross:World War II.



BL 10 pounder Mountain Gun crew in action, East Africa, World War I



Flag of Indian Army Regiment of Artillery

## Further reading

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- [1] Regiment of Artillery - Honours and Awards ([http://indianarmy.nic.in/arms/artty.html#Gallantry Awards During OP Vijay](http://indianarmy.nic.in/arms/artty.html#Gallantry_Awards_During_OP_Vijay)) Indian Army website.
- [2] History of Artillery ([http://www.indianarmy.gov.in/hist\\_of\\_artty.PDF](http://www.indianarmy.gov.in/hist_of_artty.PDF)), Indian Army.
- [3] Regiment of Artillery (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/artillery.htm>) *Global Security*
- [4] Indian Field Artillery in World War II (<http://members.tripod.com/~nigelef/indregt.htm>)
- [5] Sawhney, Jane's Defence Weekly, 9 October 1996, p.35
- [6] Pravin Sawhney, 'India's artillery a force in its own right,' Jane's Defence Weekly, 9 October 1996, p.35-37
- [7] 15th Jan 1985 Stamp ([http://www.indiapost.gov.in/APS/APS/apsweb/commemoratives\\_on\\_artillery.htm](http://www.indiapost.gov.in/APS/APS/apsweb/commemoratives_on_artillery.htm)) *India Post*.

## External links

- Regiment of Artillery at Official website of the Indian Army ([http://indianarmy.nic.in/arms/index\\_artty.htm](http://indianarmy.nic.in/arms/index_artty.htm))
- Martyrs of Regiment of Artillery (<http://indianarmy.nic.in/martyrs/home.jsp?hidrecord=10&operation=&service=31&state=15&subform=Search>) Indian Army
- Regiment of Artillery (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/ARMY/Reg-Art.html>) at Bharat Rakshak
- WeGunners (<http://wegunners.webs.com>)
- 4 Hazara Mountain Battery (FF) (<http://4hazara.blogspot.com/>)

# Engineer Groups

## Indian Army Corps of Engineers

The logo of the Corps of Engineers	
<b>Active</b>	1777-Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	 Indian Army
<b>Army Headquarters</b>	New Delhi, India
<b>Nickname</b>	Military Engineer Service (MES)
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Ubique (Everywhere)</i>
<b>Colours</b>	Gold, red and black
<b>Engagements</b>	Second Anglo-Afghan War First World War Second World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burma Campaign</li> </ul> Sino-Indian War of 1962 Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 Indo-Pakistani War of 1999
Commanders	
<b>Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Engineers</b>	Lieutenant-General A.K. Nanda, Engineer-in-Chief
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Lt.Gen. Premindra Singh Bhagat

The **Indian Army Corps of Engineers** has a long and history dating back to the mid-18th century. The earliest existing subunit of the Corps (18 Field Company) dates back to 1777 while the Corps officially recognises its birth as 1780 when the senior most group of the Corps, the Madras Sappers were raised.

The Corps consists of three groups of combat engineers, namely the Madras Sappers, the Bengal Sappers and the Bombay Sappers. A group is roughly analogous to a regiment of Indian infantry, each group consisting of a number of engineer regiments. The engineer regiment is the basic combat engineer unit, analogous to an infantry battalion.

Besides the combat engineers, the Corps mans and operates major engineering organisations such as the Military Engineering Service (MES), the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the Married Accommodation Project and the Survey of India.<sup>[1]</sup>

## History

The Corps of Engineers is one of the oldest arms of the Indian Army. The origin of the Corps dates back to 1780 when the two regular pioneer companies were raised in the Madras Presidency Army. Subsequently, the Group of Madras, Bengal and Bombay Sappers were formed in their respective presidencies. These Groups came together when the British Indian Army was formed after 1857 and were later merged on 18 November 1932 to form the Corps of Indian Engineers. Engineer Groups initially consisted of field companies (a sub-unit organization that exists to this day).

Till 1911, the Sappers also had the duty of passing battlefield messages. Between 1911 and 1920, they handed this task to a batch of their own kinsmen who then formed the Corps of Signals. The Sappers also contributed the first batch of airmen when the Indian Air Force was raised in 1932. From 1942-1945 officers of the Indian Railways were recruited into this Corps to participate in Britain's Burma Campaign.



Corps of Bengal Sappers and Miners guarding their sector of the Sherpore Cantonment, outside the city boundary of Kabul, Afghanistan, during the Afghan War 1878-9

## Combat Engineers

In war, Combat Engineers provide mobility to own forces by constructing bridges, tracks and helipads; on the other hand the Corps denies the same to the enemy by creating obstacles such as laying mine-fields and demolition of bridges. The need for accurate survey arose before combat engineering. Vast holdings had to be carefully delineated and mapped out, to plan the correct form of commercial extraction. By 1780, serious attention began to be given to the art of sapping and mining.

Forts abound in the subcontinent, and to the forts the main defences withdrew for a protracted stand. On being invested, the siege (heavy) artillery including trench mortars or bombards went at it. The real work, not for the faint-hearted, went to the sappers who had to do the 'sapping' or mining. Sapping is the technique of accurately digging trenches, usually covered or zigzag, to cover one's approach to the point of assault.

## Military Engineering Service

The Military Engineering Services, or the MES, are responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of all works, buildings, airfields, dock installations, etc., together with accessory services such as military roads, water and electricity supply, drainage, refrigeration, furniture, required by the Army, Navy and Air Force in India.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Military Engineering Services is the largest construction agency in the country. As the premier engineering arm of the Ministry of Defence, the MES primarily provides for the three arms of Defence forces, the Army, Air Force and Navy and also to other Defence related departments and organisations. It was founded in 1851 to provide rear-line-engineering support to the erstwhile British Indian Army.



## Border Roads Organisation

The Border Roads Organisation has made its own contribution to the nation by constructing national highways, airfields, buildings and bridges. The Border Roads, by constructing a large number of roads in once inaccessible areas of the Himalayas, Rajasthan and North Eastern States have contributed significantly to their economic development.

## Decorations

General PS Bhagat of the Corps remains the first Indian Officer to have won the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. Another first in the same war, Subedar Subramaniam was awarded the George Cross. Later, during Kashmir operation soon after Independence, Major Rama Raghoba Rane was awarded the Param Vir Chakra for making a passage through enemy mine fields while crawling in front of a tank. Engineer units have been deployed abroad as part of UN Missions.

The Corps of Engineers has to its credit one Param Vir Chakra, one Ashoka Chakra, one Padma Bhushan, 38 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, two Maha Vir Chakras, 13 Kirti Chakras, three Padma Shris, 88 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 25 Vir Chakras, 93 Shaurya Chakras, six Yudh Seva Medals and many other awards.

9 Engineer Regiment became one of the youngest Engineer Regiment in world history to enter the battlefield and got as many as 12 decorations including 01 Mahavir Chakra, 03 Vir Chakra, 04 Sena Medal, 04 Mention in Dispatch at the "Battle of Basantar" in 1971. 107 Engineer Regiment gained an Indian Institute of Bridging Engineers award for constructing a bridge in Himachal Pradesh in 2001.<sup>[3]</sup> 268 Engineer Regiment was raised in 1964.<sup>[4]</sup> As of 2009 it is based 'somewhere in the western sector'. 69 Engineer Regiment was raised in 2005. As of 2006 it is based at Chandigarh.<sup>[5]</sup>

Engineer regiments that served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka included the 3,4,8,16,51,53,110,115, and 270.<sup>[6]</sup>

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- [1] Globalsecurity.org, Indian Corps of Engineers (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/engineer.htm>)
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- [3] 107 Engineer Regiment bags technical excellence award - Times Of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1817321896.cms>)
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## External links

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- Royal Engineers Museum ([http://www.remuseum.org.uk/corpshistory/rem\\_corps\\_part10.htm](http://www.remuseum.org.uk/corpshistory/rem_corps_part10.htm)) Indian Sappers (1740–1947)
- Royal Engineers Museum ([http://www.remuseum.org.uk/corpshistory/rem\\_corps\\_part16.htm](http://www.remuseum.org.uk/corpshistory/rem_corps_part16.htm)) The Corps in the Second World War (1939–45)- Indian Engineers in the Western Desert, Italian and Burma Campaigns
- Royal Engineers Museum ([http://www.remuseum.org.uk/biography/rem\\_bio\\_kitchener.htm](http://www.remuseum.org.uk/biography/rem_bio_kitchener.htm)) Biography of Lord Kitchener

# Madras Engineer Group

Madras Engineer Group	
Madras Engineer Group (MEG)	
<b>Active</b>	1780–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Corps of Engineers of Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Combat Engineers
<b>Role</b>	Support
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Bangalore
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Sarvatra!</i> (Always)
<b>Engagements</b>	See Battle honours list
<b>Battle honours</b>	See Battle honours list

**Madras Engineer Group (MEG)** (Informal: **Madras Sappers**) are a regiment of the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. The Madras Sappers draw their origin from the erstwhile Madras Presidency army of the British Raj. This regiment has its HQ in Bangalore. The Madras Sappers are the oldest regiment of the Corps of Engineers.

They are also the only regiment of the erstwhile Madras Presidency Army to survive the post-1857 reorganizations unscathed. The *thambis*, as the troops of the Madras Sappers are popularly known, with their hallmark Shakos have distinguished themselves in many battle fields around the world for more than 200 years.



Madras Sappers review order by Richard Simkin.

In World War I they became particularly famous for inventing the mine clearing torpedo that goes by the name of *Bangalore torpedo*.

## Timeline

- 1780 – Created *Madras Pioneers* from two company of Pioneers (On September 30, 1780 at Madras Patnam)
- 1831 – Corps of Madras Sappers and Miners, Renamed as

- 1876 – *Queen's Own*, Prefixed with
- 1903 – 2nd Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, Renamed as part of the Kitchener Reforms
- 1911 – 2nd Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, Renamed as
- 1834 – Relocated HQ to Bangalore and where they remain today



Madras Sappers & Miners joined Sir Colin Campbell in the second relief of Lucknow in November 1857

## History

The second half of the eighteenth century found the East India Company involved in the politics of India and in conflict with the French and a number of native states, amongst whom Mysore, the Marathas and the remnants of the Mughal empire were prominent. The newly-raised army of the Madras Presidency was deficient of combat pioneers who were raised as 'ad hoc' companies and disbanded after the conflicts. The First Anglo-Mysore War highlighted this deficiency and led to the raising of two companies of the Madras Pioneers on September 30, 1780 at Fort St George. These men are the forefathers of the Madras Engineer Group of today and the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army.

The Madras Pioneers formed an integral part of the armed forces. Their principal job in active warfare was to dig 'saps' or 'trenches' which permitted cannon to be brought in range of enemy fortifications and to dig 'mines' which would explode creating a breach in the fort walls. Hence the name, *Sappers & Miners*. In addition, the sappers used to lead the way to the breach for the 'forlorn hope' and infantry to follow. They also built roads, bridges, fortifications, wells, water-supply and fought as infantry when needed.

Since this group was constituted by the Madras Presidency, and formed part of the Madras Army, they were called the Madras Sappers. Likewise in 1803 and again in 1824, the Bengal Sappers and Bombay Sappers were formed in the other presidencies.

The Madras Sappers recruited and trained *small tough and wiry men* from South India. These engineer troops fought in numerous campaigns in India at Sholinghur, Seringapatam, Assaye (along with Major General Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, and also in Egypt, China, Burma and other places abroad.

The Madras Sappers moved into Bangalore in 1834, when they were involved in a major part of the construction activities of the Civilian and Military buildings in Bangalore. Their association with Bangalore, where the Centre is located, continues to this day.

The motto of the Madras Sappers is that common to all three regiments of the Corps of Engineers, **Sarvatra** (*Sanskrit: Everywhere*) the Indian equivalent to 'ubique', the motto of the Royal Engineers.

## Gallery



Sphinx symbol depicting the campaign in Egypt, 1801.



Elephant emblem depicting the Battle of Assaye, 1803.



Dragon symbol depicting the campaign in China, during the First Opium War, 1840.

## Battle honours

### Pre-World War I

- Carnatic (1781–82)
- Sholinghur (1781–82)
- Mysore (1792)
- Seringapatam (1799)
- Egypt 1801
- Assaye (1803)
- Java (1811)
- Nagpur (1819)
- Mehidpur (1819)
- Ava (1825)
- China (1840)
- Meanee (1843)
- Hyderabad (1843)
- Pegu (1852)
- Persia (1856–57)
- Central India (1858)
- Lucknow (1858)
- Taku Forts (1860)
- Peking (1860)
- Abyssinia (1868)
- Afghanistan (1878–80)
- Egypt (1882)
- Tel-el-Kebir (1882)
- Suakin (1885)
- Tofrek (1885)
- Burma (1885–87)
- Chitral (1895)
- Malakand (1897)
- Tirah (1897–98)
- Punjab Frontier (1897–98)
- Boxer Rebellion (1900)

### World War I

- France & Flanders (1914–15)
- Suez Canal (1915–17)
- Egypt (1915–17)
- Gaza (1917)
- Megiddo (1917)
- Sharon (1918)
- Palestine (1918)
- Baghdad (1915–18)
- Mesopotamia (1915–18)
- Tigris (1916)
- Kut-el-Amara (1917)
- India (1917)
- Persia (1918)
- N.W. Frontier (1914–15)
- East Africa (1918)



War memorial on Brigade road, Bangalore

## World War II

- Mersa Matruh (1940–43)
- Ngakyedauk Pass (1942–45)
- Bishenpur (1942–45)
- Meiktila (1942–45)
- Tamu Road (1942–45)
- Cassino I (1943–45)
- Abyssinia (1940–41)
- North Africa (1940–43)
- Iraq (1941)
- Syria (1941)
- Malaya (1941–42)
- Burma (1942–45)
- Italy (1943–45)

## Post Independence

- Zoji La (1948)
- Basantar River (1971)
- Jammu & Kashmir (1947-48)
- Jammu & Kashmir (1965)
- Punjab (1965)
- Jammu & Kashmir (1971)
- Punjab (1971)
- East Pakistan (1971)

## Symbols

The battle symbols of MEG are, a sphinx to commemorate the victory in Egypt in 1801, an elephant for the victory in Assaye in 1803, a dragon for China (1848), a bighorn sheep for Zoji La (1948) and a tank for Basantar (1971).

## External links

- <http://web.archive.org/web/20091027133925/http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9460/remem.htm>
- <http://www.regiments.org/regiments/southasia/art-eng-sig/sm-mad.htm>
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- <http://www.reubique.com/indpion.htm>



# Bengal Engineer Group

Bengal Engineer Group	
Active	1803–Present
Country	India
Branch	Corps of Engineers
Role	Support
Regimental Centre	Roorkee, Uttarakhand
Motto	God's Own
Anniversaries	November 7
Decorations	11 Victoria Cross 116 Indian Order of Merit 1 Padma Bhushan 17 Shaurya Chakra 93 Sena Medals 11 Arjun Award
Battle honours	80 11 Theatre honours

The **Bengal Engineer Group** (BEG) or the *Bengal Sappers* or *Bengal Engineers* as they are informally known, are remnants of British Indian Army's Bengal Army of the Bengal Presidency in British India; now a regiment of the Corps of Engineers in the Indian Army. The Bengal Sappers have their regimental centre at Roorkee Cantonment in Haridwar district, Uttarakhand. The Bengal Sappers are one of the few remaining regiments of the erstwhile Bengal Presidency Army and survived the Mutiny due to their sterling work in the recapture of Delhi and other operations in 1857–58. The troops of the Bengal Sappers have been a familiar sight for over 200 years in the battlefields of British India with their never-say-die attitude of *Chak De* and brandishing their favourite tool the *hamber*.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>



Bengal Sappers and Miners laying explosive charges and the subsequent Storming of Ghuznee. The Battle of Ghuznee First Afghan War, 23rd July 1839

Over the years the Bengal Sappers have won many battle and theatre honours, 11 Victoria Cross, 116 Indian Order of Merit,

Shaurya Chakra, 93 Sena Medals and 11 Arjun Awards, the highest number of won by any single organization in the country.<sup>[1][4]</sup> Lt Gen Joginder Singh Dhillon, commissioned into Bengal Engineer Group in 1936, who commanded the First Republic Day Parade in Delhi, became the first Army Officer to be awarded the Padma Bhushan on 24 November 1965.<sup>[5]</sup> Among the three Sappers of Indian Army, Bengal Sappers was the first Engineer Group to receive the 'President Colours' in recognition of its service to the nation, on January 12, 1989, by R Venkataraman, the then President of India, who presented the Regimental Colours to Bengal Engineer Group at Roorkee.<sup>[3]</sup>



Bengal Sappers and Miners Bastion, at Sherpur cantonment, Kabul, Second Afghan War, c. 1879.

Besides service on the battlefield, the Bengal Engineers also rendered valuable peacetime contributions. The military engineer, Lt. James Agg, designed St John's Church in Calcutta. It was based on James Gibbs's St Martin-in-the-Fields in London and was consecrated in 1787.<sup>[6]</sup>

## History

Indian Army Corps of Engineers is one of the oldest arms of the Indian Army, dating back to 1780, when the two regular pioneer companies of the Madras Sappers were raised, as a part of British East India Company army.<sup>[7]</sup> Prior to its formation, by 1740s British officers and engineers served in the Bengal Engineers, Bombay Engineers and Madras Engineers, formed with the respective Presidency armies, while British soldiers served in each of the Presidencies' Sappers and Miner Companies, namely Bengal Sappers and Miners, Madras Sappers and Miners and Bombay Sappers and Miners.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

The **Bengal Sappers and Miners**, as they were earlier known, was originally the *Corps of Bengal Pioneers*, which was raised from two pioneer companies in 1803, part of Bengal Army of the Presidency of Bengal; one raised by Capt T. Wood at Kanpur as *Bengal Pioneers* in November 1803,<sup>[2]</sup> also known as "Roorkee Safar Maina".<sup>[10]</sup> In 1819, at the conclusion of Third Maratha War, a part of *Bengal Pioneers* merged with the *Company of Miners* (raised in 1808) to become the *Bengal Sappers and Miners*, and raised at Allahabad, with Captain Thomas Anburey as the Commandant. The remaining part of the Corps of Bengal Pioneers was absorbed in 1833.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1843 'Broadfoot's Sappers', which had been raised in 1840, merged into the *Bengal Sappers and Miners*.

In 1847 the *Bengal Sappers and Miners* was renamed the *Bengal Sappers and Pioneers*, and in 1851 it became the *Corps of Bengal Sappers and Miners*. On November 7, 1853, the regiment moved to Roorkee, where it has maintained its regimental centre ever since.<sup>[11]</sup> Lord Kitchener's reforms in 1903 saw it redesignated as the *1st Sappers and Miners*, which was again altered in 1906 to the *1st Prince of Wales's Own Sappers and Miners*.

On the accession of George V to the throne in 1910 it was renamed *1st King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners*,<sup>[12]</sup> with the '1st' being dropped in 1923, to make it King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners. In 1937 it was renamed *King George V's Bengal Sappers and Miners*, and in 1941 they became the 'King George V's Bengal Sappers and Miners Group' of the Indian Engineers. In 1946 it became the 'King George V's Group' of the Royal Indian Engineers. On Indian independence and partition in 1947, about half of the serving personnel were

allocated to the Pakistan Royal Engineers. In 1950 they became the Bengal Centre, Corps of Engineers, after which they became the Bengal Engineer Group and Centre.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Battle honours

- Bharatpur (1826),<sup>[14]</sup> Battle of Ghazni (1839 First Anglo-Afghan War), Kabul 1842, Ferozeshah, Sobraon, Multan, Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi 1857, Lucknow, Ali Masjid, Charasiah, Kabul (1879 Second Afghan War),<sup>[15]</sup> Ahmad Khel, Afghanistan 1878–80, Burma 1885–87, Chitral (1895),<sup>[16]</sup> Punjab Frontier, Tirah, China 1900;
- World War I: La Bassée 1914, Festubert 1914 '15, Givenchy 1914, Neuve Chapelle, Aubers, Loos, France and Flanders 1914–15, Megiddo, Sharon, Damascus, Palestine 1918, Aden, Kut al Amara 1915 '17, Ctesiphon, Defence of Kut al Amara, Tigris 1916, Baghdad, Khan Baghdadi, Sharqat, Mesopotamia 1915–18, Persia 1918, North West Frontier India 1915 '16–17, Baluchistan 1918;
- Afghanistan 1919;
- The Second World War: Kampar, Malaya 1941–42, North Africa 1940–43, Cassino II, Italy 1943–45,<sup>[17]</sup> Yenangyaung 1942, Ngakedaung Pass, Jail Hill, Meiktila, Burma 1942–45
- Jammu and Kashmir 1947–48, Jammu and Kashmir 1965, Punjab 1965, Rajasthan 1965, East Pakistan 1971, Jammu and Kashmir 1971, Sindh 1971.<sup>[13]</sup>



Colonel Thomas Tupper  
Carter-Campbell of Possil (Lord  
Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace,  
Argyllshire) Esquire Corps of Royal  
Bengal Engineers.

## Victoria Cross recipients

Name	Event	Date of action	Place of action
Duncan Home	Indian Mutiny	14 September 1857	Delhi, India
James Innes	Indian Mutiny	28 February 1858	Sultanpore, India <sup>[18]</sup>
Philip Salkeld	Indian Mutiny	14 September 1857	Delhi, India <sup>[19]</sup>
John Smith	Indian Mutiny	14 September 1857	Delhi, India <sup>[20]</sup>
Edward Thackeray	Indian Mutiny	16 September 1857	Delhi, India
William Trevor	Anglo-Bhutanese War	30 April 1865	Dewangiri, Deothang, Bhutan
James Dundas	Anglo-Bhutanese War	30 April 1865	Dewangiri, Deothang, Bhutan
Edward Leach	Second Afghan War	17 March 1879	Khyber Pass, Afghanistan <sup>[21]</sup>
Fenton Aylmer	Hunza-Naga Campaign	2 December 1891	Nilt Fort, British India <sup>[21][22]</sup>
James Colvin	First Mohmand Campaign	16 September 1897	Bilot, British India <sup>[23]</sup>
Thomas Watson	First Mohmand Campaign	16 September 1897	Bilot, British India <sup>[24]</sup>



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## External links

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# Bombay Engineer Group

Bombay Engineer Group	
Bombay Engineer Group (BEG)	
<b>Active</b>	1780–present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Corps of Engineers of Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Combat Engineers
<b>Role</b>	Support
<b>Garrison/HQ</b>	Khadki, Pune
<b>Motto</b>	<i>Sarvatra!</i>
<b>Engagements</b>	See Battle honours list
<b>Battle honours</b>	See Battle honours list

The **Bombay Engineering Group**, or the ***Bombay Sappers*** as they are informally known, are a regiment of the Indian Army Corps of Engineers. The Bombay Sappers draw their origin from the erstwhile Bombay Presidency army of the British Raj. This regiment has its centre in Khadki, Pune in Maharashtra state. The Bombay Sappers have gone to on to win many accolades in battle throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, both before and after Independence, including the British Victoria Cross and the French Legion of Honour before independence, as well as the Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra as part of Independent India. The Group has also made its mark in peacetime activities such as sport, adventure, aid to civil authority and prestigious construction projects. The troops of the Bombay Sappers are renowned for their endurance, courage and valour on the battlefield.

## Brief history

The Bombay Sappers draw their origins back to the late 18th century when the British had become a new force in the politics of India which consisted of a large number of kingdoms and fiefdoms; the principal ones being the Maratha confederacy, Mysore, Hyderabad and Berar, with British presidencies at Bombay, Madras and Bengal in addition to their factories at Surat. The British engaged in conflict with Tipu Sultan and later the Marathas, which along with diplomatic measures resulted in British overlordship over large parts of India.

The earliest instance of recruitment of native sappers was the formation of a



*Soldiers of the Bombay Sappers and Miners: Havildar, Subedar, Naik and Sepoy. Their uniform is very much on the British pattern, here shown with 'puttees' and hobnailed boots. The Mules on the right, carried the specialist equipment of these Engineering Units.*

*(From a Photograph by Frank Bremner c. 1895)*

Bombay Sappers soldiers

company of *Pioneer Lascars*, comprising 100 men, in 1777 by Major Lawrence Nilson, the first Chief Engineer of the Bombay Presidency.<sup>[1]</sup> Over the next few years, these newly born Lascars saw action mostly in skirmishes with the Marathas. Soon after being recognised as a Pioneer Corps in 1781,<sup>[2]</sup> they participated in the 1782–84 expedition to the Malabar coast against Tipu Sultan's forces in the Second Mysore War and also saw action in the Third Mysore War, when they served at Calicut and at the first siege of Seringapatam.<sup>[3]</sup>



No.2 Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners, China 1900.

In 1797, the Bombay Pioneer Corps was organised afresh with 4 companies of 100 men each, under Captain-Lieutenant Bryce Moncrieff (Bo.E.) into which the Pioneer Lascars were wholly absorbed.<sup>[3]</sup> The Bombay Pioneers rendered sterling service in road construction and survey of the Malabar and Kanara for some years, in the midst of which they participated with merit in the Fourth Mysore War (1799), participating in the defense of Manatana, Battle of Seedaseer and the siege and capture of Seringapatam. The Bombay Pioneers next saw service in 1803 during the Second Maratha War under Sir Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, excelling at Gawilgarh and rendering sterling service in the many campaigns by maintaining lines of communication and helping the heavy cannons reach the battlefield.

The successful defeat of Maratha ambitions South of the Vindhyas was followed by stringent economisation in 1807 which found the Bombay Pioneers reduced to only one company,<sup>[4]</sup> till, in 1812, the inescapable demands of a vibrant and growing Presidency led to the Corps being increased to a strength of four companies, Numbers 1 to 4.<sup>[5]</sup> Soon after during the Third Maratha War (1818–1820), the four companies paid a vital role in the capture of the erstwhile Peshwa's territories by the reduction of as many as 33 forts in the Konkan, Khandesh and Deccan.<sup>[6]</sup> Impending operations in Central India led to the Corps being expanded to 6 companies in 1819 and to 8 companies in 1822 when they were officially recognised as a battalion.<sup>[7]</sup>

Besides the Bombay Pioneers, a separate company of Engineer Lascars had been raised in 1820 and designated as 'Sappers and Miners Company'.<sup>[8]</sup> This field company was the first Bombay Sapper unit to proceed abroad when in 1821 it sailed for operations against pirates on the Arabian coast and earned for itself the first battle honour of the Corps, *Beni Boo Alli*. In 1826, a second company was raised and the 'Sappers & Miners' made into the *Engineer Corps* in 1829.<sup>[9]</sup>

Earlier, in 1803, a pontoon train had been raised by the British at Bombay to help with river crossing of the rivers of the Deccan in monsoon. This proved unable to keep up with the swift movement of infantry and cavalry characteristic of Sir Arthur Wellesley's manouvres, but later proved to be useful for operations in Gujarat.<sup>[10]</sup> This too was merged with the Engineer Corps.

In 1830 the Bombay Pioneers were reduced from 8 to 6 companies and the pioneer companies merged into the Engineer Corps.<sup>[11]</sup> The Engineer Corps were reduced in strength yet again in 1834 as part of a general retrenchment to just one Sapper & Miner and 3 Pioneer companies.<sup>[11]</sup> Soon after in 1839, the Bombay Engineer companies took part in operations in Afghanistan, distinguishing themselves at Ghuznee and Khelat.

In 1840, all the pioneer companies were converted into Sappers & Miners and the 'Engineer Corps' renamed as the *Bombay Sappers & Miners*.<sup>[12]</sup> The Corps took part in many operations both in India and abroad, the long list of battle and theatre honours earned giving an idea of the sterling service rendered by the Corps both in peace and war.

In the 19th century and prior to World War I, the Bombay Sappers served in Arabia, Persia, Abyssinia, China, Somaliland; in India fought in the Mysore, Maratha and Anglo-Sikh Wars; fought in the aftermath of the *Mutiny* in Mhow, Jhansi, Saugor and Kathiawar and many times over in the Punjab, North West Frontier Province and Afghanistan.

In the 1903 reorganisation of the Indian Army, the Corps was renamed in the newly unified Indian Army as the *3rd Sappers & Miners*. A mistaken interpretation of the historic records led to the Bombay Sappers being considered as junior to the Madras and Bengal Sappers whereas they could trace an unbroken descent from before the Madras or Bengal Sappers were formed; the case for reversion being taken up a number of times unsuccessfully, presumably due to inadequate records of the services of the Corps in the late 18th century.

The Bombay Sappers expanded greatly during the 'Great War' to meet the large number of Indian engineer troops required by the Empire. The Bombay Sappers fought against the Germans and the Turks in Europe, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Aden, Persia, East Africa and also in Afghanistan, Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province, winning as many as 29 battle and theatre honours. The very large losses of 20 and 21 Field Companies in Europe in 1914–15 led to the Malerkotla Sappers & Miners joining the Corps where they remained affiliated till 1945 when all state forces sapper companies were transferred to the Bengal Sappers ostensibly on grounds of administrative convenience.

In recognition of the prodigious contribution of the Bombay Sappers in World War I, the title 'Royal' was bestowed on the Corps in 1921 and they became the *3rd Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners*. The numeral *3rd* was removed in 1923 and the Corps became the *Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners* and were so called right until the end of World War II.

The Second World War once again saw a great wartime expansion and the Bombay Sappers fought the Germans, Italians and the Japanese in Malaya, Singapore, Burma, Abyssinia, Eritrea, North Africa, Syria, Italy and Greece.

After independence, the Group became part of the Corps of Engineers of the Army of independent India.

## Battle and Theatre honours

The list of battle and theatre honours of the Bombay Sappers are as follows:

### Pre-World War I

- Beni Boo Alli (1821)
- Persia (1856–57)
- Kandahar 1880
- Afghanistan 1839
- Reshire (1856)
- Burma 1885–87
- Ghuznee 1839
- Bushire (1856)
- Punjab Frontier (1897–98)
- Khelat (1839)
- Koosh-Ab (1856)
- Tirah (1897)
- Punjaub (1848–49)
- Central India (1858)
- China 1900
- Mooltan (1848–49)
- Abyssinia (1867)
- Somaliland 1901–04
- Goojerat (1849)
- Afghanistan 1878–80

## World War I

European theatre	Palestine	Mesopotamia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• France and Flanders 1914-15</li> <li>• La Bassee 1914</li> <li>• Armentieres 1914</li> <li>• Festubert 1914, Festubert 1915</li> <li>• Givenchy 1914</li> <li>• Neuve Chappelle (1914)</li> <li>• Ypres 1915</li> <li>• St Julien (1915)</li> <li>• Aubers 1915</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Palestine 1918</i></li> <li>• Megiddo (1918)</li> <li>• Sharon (1918)</li> <li>• Nablus (1918)</li> <li>• Damascus (1918)</li> </ul> <p><b>Persia, Aden, East Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Persia 1918-19</i></li> <li>• Aden 1918</li> <li>• <i>East Africa 1914-18</i></li> <li>• Kilimanjaro 1916</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mesopotamia 1914-18</i></li> <li>• Basra (1914)</li> <li>• Shaiba (1915)</li> <li>• Ctesiphon (1916)</li> <li>• Tigris 1916</li> <li>• Defence of Kut al Amara (1915–16)</li> <li>• Kut al Amara 1915 Kut al Amara 1917</li> <li>• Baghdad 1917</li> </ul> <p><b>India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>North West Frontier India 1916–17</i></li> <li>• <i>Baluchistan 1918</i></li> <li>• <i>Afghanistan 1919</i></li> </ul>

## World War II

North Africa & Europe	South-East Asia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>North Africa 1940-43</i></li> <li>• <i>Abyssinia 1940-41</i></li> <li>• <i>Syria 1941</i></li> <li>• <i>Italy 1943-45</i></li> <li>• <i>Greece 1944-45</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Malaya 1941-42</i></li> <li>• Kuantan (1941–42)</li> <li>• <i>Burma 1942-45</i></li> <li>• Defence of Sinzweya (1944)</li> <li>• Myinmu Bridge Head (1945)</li> <li>• Defence of Meiktila (1945)</li> </ul>

## Post-Indian Independence

Indo-Pak War (1947–46)	Indo-Pak War (1965)	Indo-Pak War (1971)	Kargil incursion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jammu &amp; Kashmir (1947–48)</li> <li>• Rajaori (1948)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jammu &amp; Kashmir (1965)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Pakistan (1971)</li> <li>• Sylhet (1971)</li> <li>• Jammu &amp; Kashmir (1971)</li> <li>• Punjab (1971)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ladakh (1999)</li> <li>• Dras (1999)</li> </ul>

## Class Composition

The Group presently recruits a mix of Marathas, Muslims, Mazhabi and Ramdasiya Sikhs besides various other Indian castes. The training centre, titled Bombay Engineer Group and Centre, is located in Khadki.

## Notes

1. *Bombay Engineers*: The Bombay Engineers (abbreviated above as Bo.E.) were a corps of engineer officers granted a commission by the East India Company for specific service of the Bombay Presidency. The Corps provided engineers for military works, garrison duties and command of engineer troops in the field. The Bombay Sappers & Miners were officered by the Bombay Engineers from 1777 to 1802 and from 1820 to 1862 when they were absorbed into the Royal Engineers. In the years between apparent shortages of trained engineers led to the Bombay Pioneers being officered by British officers of the Bombay Native Infantry. Likewise, the Madras Engineers (M.E.) and Bengal Engineers (B.E.) served the same functions in other presidencies.
2. *About Battle & Theatre honours*:  
:(a). The battle & theatre honours are intermixed and arranged chronologically for reader's convenience. The

World War honours are also grouped as per theatre of operations.

:(b). Dates without parentheses form part of the battle/theatre honour title. Dates not forming part of the title have been added with parentheses for chronological ease of readers and do not form part of the title of the honour.

:(c). The honours have been distinguished into *Battle Honours* or *Theatre Honours* vide the lists on pg 53 and 54 respectively of *A Brief history of the Bombay Engineer Group*, (1996), with the theatre honours being placed in italics to determine them from battle honours which are without italics.

## References



- [1] Sandes (1948). Today, this company is known as the 18 Field Company and is part of the 106 Engineer Regiment. *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 29.
- [2] Babayya et al. (2006) *A Tradition of Valour* pg 3.
- [3] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 32–33.
- [4] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 50.
- [5] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 53.
- [6] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 75.
- [7] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 85.
- [8] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 85–86.
- [9] Sandes (1948). *The Indian Sappers & Miners*, pg 108.
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# Indian Army Corps of Signals

## Indian Army Corps of Signals

Indian Army Corps of Signals	
<b>Active</b>	1911 - Present
<b>Country</b>	 India
<b>Branch</b>	 Indian Army
<b>Army Headquarters</b>	New Delhi, India
<b>Nickname</b>	The Corps of Signals
<b>Motto</b>	"Teevra Chaukas" ("Swift and Secure")
<b>Engagements</b>	First World War Second World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burma Campaign</li> </ul> Sino-Indian War of 1962 Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 Indo-Pakistani War of 1999

**Indian Army Corps of Signals** is a corps and an arm of the Indian Army, which handles its military communications. It was formed on the 15 February 1911 as a separate entity under Lt Col S H Powell, and went on to make important contributions to World War I and World War II. The corps celebrated 100 years of its raising on 15th February 2011.<sup>[1]</sup>

### History

After a notification was issued as a Special Army Order dated February 3, 1911, for the organisation of the signal companies, the corps was formed on February 15, 1911, when 31st and 32nd Divisional Signal Companies, the first Signals units, were raised at Fatehgarh in present Uttar Pradesh. Lt Col SH Powell, Royal Engineers, was the founder and first head of the Indian Signal Service which later became the Indian Signal Corps.<sup>[2]</sup> Till then, the Sappers part of the Indian Army Corps of Engineers established in 1777, were in charge of passing battlefield messages. Subsequently, the 33rd and 34th Divisional Signal Companies were raised at Ahmednagar, along with the nucleus of 41st Wireless Squadron at Roorkee on March 1, 1911.<sup>[2]</sup>

After Independence in 1947, Brig CHI Acehurst was the first head of the Corps of Signals, after the 1965 and 1971 wars, the corps underwent important expansions. The corps formally received its regimental colours on 20 February 1965 and on 15 February 1981.<sup>[3]</sup>

In the mid-1980s, a dedicated organisation to test communication systems was formed, it is now known as the Army Centre for Electromagnetics (ACE), eventually Indian Army became the first agency to use digital technology for both switching and transmission.<sup>[2]</sup>



## Overview

The Corps works closely with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop command and control software , notably Samyukta Electronic Warfare System, a mobile integrated electronic warfare system, developed along with Bharat Electronics Limited.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow is a premiere training institute of the Corps of Signals, while its war museum is situated at Jabalpur, where 1 Signal Regiment is based.

## References


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- [2] "The Corps of Signals: Wise with Waves" (<http://mod.nic.in/samachar/feb15-06/h2.htm>). Ministry of Defense. .
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- [4] Army gets hi-tech warfare system (<http://www.deccanherald.com/Archives/jan202004/n11.asp>)
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## External links

- Corps of Signals (<http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTemp1PLargewithoutsize.aspx?MnId=x8Fpf75MzqasnBsvabeyrA==&ParentID=B3c22nYOO88v8VALaeX+eA==&flag=qf10D8YqgA4v9zQoEO2G4Q==>) at Indian Army website
- Corps of Signals (<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Units/Other/227-Corps-Of-Signals.html>) at Bharat Rakshak website
- Corps of Signals (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/signal.htm>) at Global Security website

# Army Aviation Corps

## Army Aviation Corps (India)

Army Aviation Corps(India)	
	
Army Aviation Badge	
<b>Active</b>	02 November 1987-present
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Branch</b>	Indian Army
<b>Type</b>	Army aviation branch
<b>Role</b>	Tactical Air Transport, Assault duties and anti-tank warfare, Reconnaissance, Liaison, Disaster Relief, MEDEVAC, CSAR.
<b>Size</b>	158 aircraft
<b>Decorations</b>	2 Maha Vir Chakra, 1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal 16 Vir Chakra 3 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals,11 Shaurya Chakra,5 Yudh Seva Medals ,1 Bar to Sena Medal ,54 Sena Medals,8 Vayu Sena Medals,19 Vishisht Seva Medals,45 Mention-in-Despatches,154 Chief of Army Staff Commendation Cards and a number of Chief of Air Staff Commendation Cards.
Aircraft flown	
<b>Attack</b>	HAL Dhruv
<b>Transport</b>	HAL Dhruv, Aérospatiale SA 316 Alouette III, Aérospatiale SA 315 Lama

The **Army Aviation Corps** is a component of the Indian Army formed on 2 November 1987. The aviation arm is headed by an Additional Director General of the rank of Major General at the Army HQ, New Delhi.

## Role

The army aviation pilots are drawn from other combat arms, including artillery officers, to form a composite third dimensional force for an integrated battle. IAF operates & flies attack Helicopters like the Mil Mi-25/Mi-35 which are owned and administered by the Indian Air Force, but under the operational control of the Army & play a major role to support the armoured columns and infantry in the Thar desert and

in the plains of Punjab. Apart from the attack role, helicopters like the HAL Chetak (Aérospatiale SA 316 Alouette III), HAL Cheetah (Aérospatiale SA 315 Lama) and HAL Dhruv provide logistical support for the Indian Army in remote and inaccessible areas, specially the Siachen Glacier. Army Aviation Corps(AAC) also perform tasks like search and rescue (CSAR) and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) during war and also in the case of natural calamities.

## Operational history

In 1984, the Indian Army's Northern Command inducted the HAL Cheetah into the Siachen Glacier. The daredevil pilots were put to the ultimate test professionally and also in terms of human endurance. In 1986, the "Air Observation Post" units were transferred from the Air Force to the Army to form the Army Aviation branch. Using nine helicopter squadrons, Army Aviation has supported ground units by carrying men and material in the highest battlefield on earth, culminating in the conquest of the entire 72 km of the Siachen Glacier. Innumerable skirmishes and confrontations are taking place in the ongoing operations in the Siachen Glacier and the Army Aviation Corps is providing the required support for sustenance of our troops.

The Sri Lankan operations saw full-fledged jungle warfare application of the army's aviation resources in extremely hostile conditions. The Corps won laurels for its daring performance in the face of all odds. The Corps has also been operating in the jungle, mountain and riverine terrains of India since long.

A unit of the Army Aviation Corps had the unique distinction of operating in Somalia, as part of UNOSOM-II (United Nations Operation in Somalia-II), from October 1993 to November 1994. During these operations, the flight flew over 2000 hours without any accident and maintained 100% serviceability in an environment akin to our desert terrain. Army aviators have also been operating in the desert areas since long. In fact, some of the Army's biggest battles and peacetime exercises have been carried out in the deserts and areas contiguous to the plains of Punjab. The Corps has an exposure of participating in a war-like scenario in Operation Vijay - 1999 Kargil Conflict.

## Aircraft inventory

The Indian Army operates around 158 helicopters.<sup>[1]</sup>



HAL Dhruv at ILA-Berlin  
in 2008



HAL Light Combat  
helicopter



HAL Light Observation  
Helicopter



Dhruv of the Indian Army

## Training

Training is imparted to all candidates at the Combat Army Aviation Training School (CATS) at Nashik. The Army Aviation training was previously conducted in School of Artillery, Deolali. But now it is carried out in an independent Combat Air Training School also at Deolali.

The Cheetah Helicopter Simulator has been set up at Combat Army Aviation Training School (CATS). It is expected to reduce substantial cost in training and also to reduce pilot risk during training. The simulator is designed to expose the trainee to different weather conditions like snow, rain, storm and different terrains in addition to night flying training in handling emergencies, tactical handling of the flying machine, its different maneuvers and more. The project to install a simulator was proposed in December 2000 and approved in April 2002, with CATS Nashik chosen as the centre for installation. Macmet Technologies Ltd, who won the bid over Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), completed the project by 2005 at a cost of Rs 16.26 crore. After stringent checks, the facility was accepted by the Army in December 2005.

## Future

The army is currently evaluating helicopters from Kamov, Eurocopter and AgustaWestland for the 197 light helicopter contract for lifting supplies for the troops stationed at high altitudes. Reports suggest that Agusta Westland is out of the competition as they brought a civilian version instead of a military version for the trials.<sup>[2]</sup> While both Kamov and Eurocopter are said to be performing equally well in the trials, the window is still open as no clear winner has emerged. Sources said that Agusta Westland would be informed about the reason for their disqualification. After the summer trials, the Army will prepare a detailed technical report on the performance of the two machines that will be considered by the MoD.

As on 19 May 2010 the Indian Defence Ministry is expected to yet again cancel the tender for acquiring 197 reconnaissance and surveillance helicopters for the Indian Army, due to certain inconsistencies in the recent trials.

Although the cancellation of the tender for 197 helicopters is not confirmed, it seems the Indian Defence Ministry has noted certain shortcomings in the trials of the choppers. The Indian Defence Ministry had earlier cancelled the same tender in December 2007 and re-issued a fresh one in July 2008. The Indian Defence Ministry had earlier cited that the reason for the cancellation of the tender in 2007 was due to the lack of adherence of the bidders to the formulated guidelines.



Dhruv performing some aerobatic maneuvers in Aero India 2009.



HAL Dhruv with BMP-2 and Stryker IFVs.



HAL Light Combat Helicopter

In the earlier cancellation of the tender, the Indian Defence Ministry had cited the deviations that occurred from its requirements and guidelines. The tenders were sent to Russian Rosoboronexport (ROE) for Kamovs, Bell and Sikorsky from US, European consortium's EADS' Eurocopter and Anglo-Italian Agusta Westland, but only Eurocopter, ROE and Agusta Westland qualified for trials.

The helicopter model offered by Eurocopter was unable to perform high altitude hover-out-of-ground-effect (HOGE). The problem with ROE's Kamov was that the engine to be fitted on Kamov 226T will be Arrius 2G1 which is not yet certified. While Agusta Westland was facing serious problems due to some misunderstanding over some classification issue with the Defence Ministry.

The \$750 million deal for the 197 helicopters for the defence forces aims to replace the aging 1970s vintage Chetak and Cheetah helicopters and will be for high altitude, surveillance and logistics. The successful bidder will provide 60 helicopters in a flyaway condition, while the remaining 137 aircraft will be licence-produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Under the offsets clause, the winning bidder must also invest at least 30% of the contracted cost in India.<sup>[3]</sup>

The army is also planning to acquire HAL Light Combat Helicopter, which is under-development by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to meet its requirements for an attack helicopter which can operate at high altitude(16,300 feet) to fit into an anti-armour and anti-infantry role. Army is also planning to acquire a 3-tonne single-engine HAL Light Observation Helicopter which is also under-development for recce and observation role. As of 2007 the Army Aviation Corps modernisation plans were:<sup>[4]</sup>

- Reconnaissance and Surveillance Helicopters - HAL Dhruv will replace the existing fleet of Cheetah / Chetak helicopters. While some helicopters will be procured as 'Buy' category, others will be 'Designed and Developed' by HAL as 'Make' category. RFP for the former has been issued and the procurement was likely to commence soon.
- Armed Helicopters - Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-weapon system Integrated are being developed by HAL. Integration of weapon systems on the ALH is already under way including test firing of weapons. The helicopter was to be ready for first flight by 2009.
- Tactical Battle Support Helicopter - This is being developed as a tri-services project by HAL. The helicopter will be called Indian Multi Role Helicopter. By 2007 the procurement process had already has been "set into motion" for Battle Support helicopters. These machines should be capable of carrying 10 - 12 men into the battlefield.
- Spl Ops Squadron - A Spl Ops Squadron is being raised to provide dedicated integral aviation support to the Para Commandos (India).
- Heliborne Early-Warning Flight - Raising of a Heliborne EarlyWarning flight has been planned to optimally exploit the third dimension to enhance the reach and potency of Electronic Warfare effort.
- Light Fixed Wing Aircraft - The Army is also planning to induct light fixed-wing aircraft in future for surveillance and communication tasks.



Rustom-1 UAV

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## External links

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# Territorial Army

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## Territorial Army (India)

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The **Territorial Army in India** (commonly referred to as TA in India) is an organization of volunteers who receive military training for a few days in a year so that in case of an emergency they can be mobilized for the defence of the country.

It is a second line of defense after the Regular Indian Army; the Indian Territorial Army is not a profession, occupation or a source of employment. It is only meant for those people who are already in mainstay civilian professions, in fact, gainful employment or self-employment in a civil profession is a pre-requisite for joining the Territorial Army.

### History

The Indian Defence Force, incorporating Europeans and Indians in separate sections, was formed by the British in 1917. It was replaced by the Auxiliary Force (India) (for Europeans and Eurasians) and the Indian Territorial Force (for Indians) in 1920.

The modern Territorial Army was formally inaugurated by the first Indian Governor General Shri C. Rajagopalachari on October 9, 1949 after the Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948. October 9 is celebrated as Prime Minister's Territorial Army Day Parade.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Territorial Army initially had various types of units such as armoured regiments, infantry battalions, air defence, medical regiments, engineers field park companies, signal regiments, EME workshops, coast batteries, ASC GT Coy, ASC Compo Pl, and AMC field ambulances. By 1972 these units were either disbanded or converted to Regular Army units with the exception of infantry battalions.

Territorial Army units were actively involved in military operations in 1962, 1965 and 1971. The "Terriers" have also taken part in Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, Operation Rakshak in Punjab & J&K, Operation Rhino and Operation Bajrang in the North East. Departmental units came to the aid of the civil authorities during industrial unrest and natural calamities, most famous being earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra), Uttarkashi in Garhwal Himalaya and the super cyclone in Orissa. The Ecological units have arrested man made environmental degradation by planting 2.5 crore trees over 20,000 hectare of land in Mussoori Hills & Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand), Bikaner & Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) and ravines of Chambal in Madhya Pradesh.

### Force structure

The Territorial Army is part of the regular Indian Army. The present role of the Territorial Army is to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the communities is affected or the security of the country is threatened, and to provide units for the Regular Army as and when required. Presently the Territorial Army has a strength of approximately 40,000 first line troops (and 160,000 second line troops) comprising departmental Territorial Army units such as Railway, IOC, ONGC, Telecommunication and General Hospital, and the non Departmental Territorial Army units of Infantry Battalion and Ecological Battalion affiliated to various Infantry Regiments.

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## Training

Infantry training is carried out on urban and provincial systems.

### Urban systems of training

- **Recruit Training:** Training is carried out on weekends and holidays. Four hours of training is counted as one day. Thirty-two days in the first year only including a camp of not less than four days if the trainee volunteers with the written consent of his employer, if any.
- **Annual Training:** A minimum of thirty days, with extensions up to a maximum of sixty days including a camp for fourteen days.
- **Post Commission Training:** All Officers are required to undergo ten weeks of Post commission training within two years of their commissioning.
- **Voluntary training** to gain additional military training, provided the trainee Volunteers with the written consent of the employer, if any.

### Provincial systems of training

- **Recruit Training:** For a continuous period of thirty days in the first year only.
- **Annual Training:** For a continuous period of two calendar months in the first and subsequent years.
- **Post commission Training:** Officers receive ten weeks of compulsory post commission training within two years of commissioning.
- **Voluntary Training** to gain additional military training, provided the trainee volunteers with the written consent of his employer, if any.

## Notable Members

Many famous Indians have been members of this unique force, including Brigadier K P Singh Deo, former Cabinet Minister; Captain Rao Birender Singh, former Chief Minister of the State of Haryana; Subir Raha, former Chairman, ONGC; Padam Shree, Brigadier ( Retd ) Dr. Kapil Mohan V.S.M. PhD Managing Director, Mohan Meakin Breweries and various present ministers, legislators, senior civil officers and professionals.

Muthukrishnan Iyyappan, commissioned in 1999 was the first officer of the Territorial Army to be permanently seconded to the regular army. He joined the 3rd battalion of 8 Gorkha Rifles and served a tenure at the Siachen Glacier - again the first officer of Territorial Army to serve in the Siachen Glacier. Capt. Muthukrishnan Iyyappan was also the first officer of the Territorial Army to be posted at the Defense Services Staff College where he was the Officer Commanding - Troops during 1999-2000..

Navdeep Singh, a lawyer, is known to have received the highest number of decorations/awards in the Territorial Army. Major Vishal Bakshi, Chairman of VR Industries, was awarded with the Vishisht Seva Medal, on Republic Day, 2010.<sup>[2]</sup>

Prof. Dr. Deepak Rao, a military trainer, scientist, author, and physician is considered to be an authority in the field of Close Quarter Battle training. He has been conferred an Honorary Rank of Major in the Territorial Army<sup>[3][4]</sup> after 17 years of imparting special Close Quarter Battle commando training to the armed forces. He serves as the Executive Director of the Unarmed & Commando Combat Academy and has been appointed as Resource Personnel for imparting training in Close Quarter Battle by the Ministry of Home Affairs, India.<sup>[5]</sup>

On 1 Nov, 2011 Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Abhinav Bindra has also been awarded the rank of Lt. Colonel in Territorial Army for their contribution in the field of cricket and shooting respectively<sup>[6][7]</sup>.

Mechanical Engineer from SCRA<sup>[8]</sup> 96 Batch. Prashant Kumar Singh, posted as Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer at Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Alambagh<sup>[9]</sup> represented Indian Railways TA at Rastrapati Bhawan<sup>[10]</sup> Captain Prashant Kumar Singh participated and presented the tableau from Railway's side in Prime minister's Territorial



Army Day parade on October 4 in Parade Ground Delhi. He is the only officer to have received the General Manager Railway Award on the recommendation of Territorial Army. He represented Indian Railway Territorial Army before the President of India, Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, at the 'Calling On the President' that was held at Rashtrapati Bhawan on 13.10.2011.

## Honorary Officers

- **Kapil Dev** joined the Territorial Army on September 24, 2008 and was commissioned as an Hon. Lieutenant Colonel<sup>[11][12]</sup>.
- **'Mohanlal** joined Territorial Army as Hon. Lieutenant Colonel on 9 July 2009 - the army announced his appointment in December 2008. He is the first and only actor who have been conferred this title. His role in two films, *Keerthichakra* and *Kurukshetra* (2008 film), as an army member, led to his interest in the army and he voluntarily joined the Territorial Army.<sup>[13]</sup>
- **Deepak Rao** was commissioned into the Para TA Regiment with the Hon. Rank of Major by the President of India on 1 Nov 2011<sup>[14][15]</sup> for his contribution of 17 years in modernization of Close Quarter Battle for the Indian Army.<sup>[16]</sup> He serves as the Executive Director of the Unarmed & Commando Combat Academy and has also been appointed as Resource Person for imparting training in Close Quarter Battle by the Ministry of Home Affairs, India.<sup>[17]</sup>
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and **Abhinav Bindra** were conferred the rank of (Hony) Lt Col for their contribution in the field of cricket and shooting respectively.<sup>[18][19]</sup>

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## Video

- Territorial Army parade (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3kkNi5pI0c>)

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# Services

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## Corps of Military Police (India)

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The **Corps of Military Police (CMP)** is the military police of the Indian Army. In addition, the CMP is trained to handle prisoners of war and to regulate traffic, as well as to handle basic telecommunication equipment such as telephone exchanges. They can be identified by their red berets, white lanyards and belts, and they also wear a black brassard with the letters "MP" imprinted in red.

The term 'red berets' is synonymous with the personnel of the elite Corps of Military Police (CMP), since all ranks of this Corps adorn the exclusive red berets along with white belts to distinguish themselves from other Corps of Army. The role of this Corps is primarily to assist Army formations in maintaining a high standard of discipline of its troops, prevent breaches of various rules and regulations and to assist in the preservation of high morale of all ranks of the formation.



India's Corps of Military Police (India) personnel patrolling the Wagah border crossing in the Punjab in a Maruti Gypsy.

### External links

- Official website of the Indian Army <sup>[1]</sup>

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# Military Nursing Service (India)

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The Indian **Military Nursing Service** is a corps or regiment of the Indian Army, first formed when under British rule in 1881.

## History

### First World War

The Military Nursing Service Indian Army has its origin from the Army Nursing Service formed in 1881 part of the British Army. The force went through many changes in its 126 years of glorious existence. In 1893, it was designated as Indian Army Nursing Service. The force went through further changes in 1902, when the Indian Nursing Service and the Army Nursing Service were combined and on 27 March 1902, it was redesignated to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service [1]. At the outbreak of world war in 1914 there were just fewer than 300 nurses in the QAIMNS, by the end of the war this had raised to 10,404. The Army nurses served in Flanders, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, the Middle East and onboard hospital ships. Of the 200 plus army nurses died on active service, many were Indians. After, the war on 1st October 1926, the Nursing Services was granted permanent status in Indian Army. This date is formally recognised as the formation day of Military Nursing Service, though in actual its origins occurred 45 five years before (many Corps of the Army, including Army Medical Corps [2] traces its origin to more than hundreds of years back in the similar way, though they were actually formed after independence).

### Second World War

With the outbreak of second world war, nurses once again found themselves serving all over the world, including Singapore, Burma, Italy, Mesopotamia, Ceylon, Egypt and Western Africa. The changing working conditions and wartime shortages led to changes in uniform. Khaki slacks and battledress blouses replaced the grey and scarlet ward dress and rank insignia was adopted to signify the officer status of the nurses. In the Far East, the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore led to many army nurses (including Indian) being captured by the Japanese and endured terrible hardships and deprivations of the Far East prisoner-of-war camps. During the middle of the war in 1943, the Indian arm of the Nursing Services was separated through Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943 and redesignated it, thereby constituting the Military Nursing Service (MNS) in its present form.

The Officers of the Military Nursing Service are governed by Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance 1943 and Military Nursing Service Rules, 1944. The Section 5 of the ordinance provides that, all members of the Indian Military Nursing Service shall be of commissioned rank and shall be appointed as officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The Nursing Service Officers are also subject to Army Act 1950, Army Rules 1954, Defence Service Regulations and various Government Orders, Army Instructions, Army Orders, issued from time to time.

The Military Nursing Service stands out as one of the oldest services where women have contributed directly to the nation's war effort by providing care to the sick and wounded soldiers. This is also true for all the armed forces of the world. The army nurses have made a permanent place in every Nation's heart by nursing millions of sick and wounded soldiers back to health. The Officers of Military Nursing Service had distinguished themselves in the Second World War, through the care of the sick and wounded soldiers in India and also at many foreign theatres of war. Post independence, the Nursing Officers cared for the wounded soldiers in five major bloody conflicts with the neighboring countries. Many Soldiers injured in encounters with militants in terrorism strated North and North Eastern states owes their life to these brave women who were forced to remain in the shadows.

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## Post Independence

Now, the Military Nursing Service is an integral part of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)[3]. The AFMS consists of Army Medical Corps (AMC), Army Dental Corps [4](ADC) and Military Nursing Service (MNS). The AFMS personnel serve in the medical establishments of Army, Navy and Air Force. Among the three, the AMC occupies the proud of the place. The Military Nursing Service was treated as under dogs since the inception of AFMS in 1948 (the AMC and ADC are more or less equally positioned, though most of the cream appointments in AFMS are occupied by AMC). However, they have silently endured the negative changes happened around them in the armed forces (being actively encouraged by AMC) and so far rendered glorious service to the armed forces and nation by delivering the best nursing care in the Country. The mission of MNS is 'Excellence in Patient Care' both in war and peace, which is pursued with utmost fervor, zeal and zest. After the independence, the Officers of MNS have not only served in India but have also played a vital role in United Nations peace keeping missions abroad in UN missions to Lebanon, Cambodia, Somalia and scores of other Nations. Many of such missions are still active.

## Milestones

Recently, they had been a part of the Medical team, which was sent to Iran to give medical cover to the wounded in a devastating earthquake, which struck Bam in Iran. Their professional capabilities have been highly recognized and appreciated by all (even by the Army Doctors!). They have received a number of distinguished service medals and other military recognitions. Apart from the professional activities, MNS Officers have also participated in sports and adventure activities at National and International levels. An MNS Major won a gold medal in shooting in the last Common Wealth Games.

## Rank Structure

The various ranks of the Military Nursing Service are listed below in descending order: Commissioned Officers

- Major-General
- Brigadier
- Colonel
- Lieutenant-Colonel
- Major
- Captain
- Lieutenant

Presently there are no personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in Military Nursing Service as the other nursing personnel such as Nursing Assistants, Ambulance assistant, Stretcher Bearer etc. are part of Army Medical Corps.

## Relevant Provisions of Military Law

### Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943

The Military Nursing Service was formally established in the present form through the Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943. The Section 5 of the ordinance ordained that, all members of the Indian Military Nursing Service shall be of commissioned rank and shall be appointed as officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The Section 9 (1) provides that provisions of the Indian Army Act, 1911 (now Army Act 1950), shall, to such extent and subject to such adaptations and modifications as may be prescribed, apply to Officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service as they apply to Indian commissioned officers, unless they are clearly inapplicable to women. The modifications and adaptations of the Indian Army Act 1911, as applicable to Officers of Indian Military Nursing Service were published in the War Department notification no. 923 dated 13 Jun 1944. After the independence of our country, through a special gazette

of India notification, the Army Act 1950 was subsequently made applicable to the Officers of Military Nursing Service with suitable modification and adaptation. These adaptations and modifications are contained in Army Order 197/59. These modifications and adaptations of Army Act, 1950 are only pertaining to Military Offences, otherwise, the rest of the Army Act in its entirety is applicable to MNS Officers. The Sections of Army Act dealing with offences (at that time) were modified for the Military Nursing Service, because it was constituted as an all women force. The Nursing Service Officers were the only women serving in the Indian armed forces during the Second World War.

### **Military Nursing Service (India) Rules, 1944**

The Central Government, under the powers conferred by Section 10 of Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943, framed the Military Nursing Service (India) Rules, 1944. The Rule 3(a) lays down that the provisions of the Indian Army Act, 1911, shall apply to officers of the Nursing Services mentioned in Sub Section 1 of Section 9 of the Ordinance, as if they were Indian Commissioned Officers, and Sub Rule (b) stipulates that, the provisions of the Army Act shall apply to officers of the Nursing Service mentioned in Sub Section (2) of the said Section, as if they were Officers of the Regular Forces. The Rules 5 and 6 gives the specific adaptations and modification as ordained in Section 9(1) of the Ordinance. As a whole, the Rules lay down the modalities for the implementation of the Ordinance.

### **Army Act, 1950 and Rules 1954**

The Army Act, 1950 is applicable to the Officers of Nursing Services, with some exceptions to certain sections, which are from Section 34 to 70 dealing with offences. Of the provisions of the Army Act dealing with offences, only Section 39 - Absence without leave and Section 63 - Violation of good order and discipline shall apply to offences committed by Officers of Nursing Services. The Army Rule, 1954, in its entirety is applicable to Officers of Nursing Services. The Rule 16A lays down the authority for release of Officers from Nursing Services. The Rule 16A: Retirement of officers. — (1) Officers shall be retired from service under the orders of the Central Government, or the authorities specified in sub-rule (2), with effect from the afternoon of the last date of the month in which they—(a) Attain the age limits specified in sub-rule (5); or (b) Complete the tenures of appointment specified in sub-rule 5 (f) (ii) and (g) (ii) and sub-rule (6), whichever is earlier. (2) The authorities referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be—(a) The Director-General, Armed Forces Medical Services in respect of officers of the Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service;

### **Defence Service Regulations & Other Rules**

The Officers of Nursing Services are governed by Defence Service Regulations - Regulations for the Army 1987, various Government Orders, Army Instructions and Army Orders. The Defence Service Regulations - Regulations for the Army (DSR), Para 733 (b) ordained that women officers serving in the Army Medical Corps and officers in the Military Nursing Service will rank equally with male officers of the same titular rank. The Army Rank was granted to Nursing Officers by Army Instruction 4/59. They are entitled to salute and other compliments as laid down in Army Order 353/73. The Army Order 70/73 lays down that, persons subject to Army Act who are placed under the professional care of officers of the Military Nursing Service shall obey and comply with professional orders and direction of such Nursing Officers. They shall be liable to be punished for non-compliance of such orders, under Section 63 of Army Act, 1950 for violation of good order and discipline. The pay and allowances of Officers of Nursing Services are as per the government orders issued from time to time. The Army Order 11/82 lays down the order of precedence of Military Nursing Service in the hierarchy of the Arms and Services of the Army. The DSR, Vol – I Para 235, assigns ADGMNS (Additional Director General MNS – held by an Officer of Major General rank), the duty of technical advisor to DGAFMS, DGMS (Army), DGMS (Navy) and DGMS (Air Force). Further, the DSR, Vol – I, Para 242 (read with Para 243, 247, 250 and 251) lays down that, all Nursing Officers in charges of

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